Copy

Edgar H.Adams,
Bayville, N.Y.

April 2nd,1925.

Mr. Waldo Newcomer,
Exchange Bank Office,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Newcomer:-

I have carefully examined the Brasher piece, and find that it genuine, and from the dies of the other Brasher pieces, except that it has been so much trimmed, which of course accounts for its weight being less than the other Brasher pieces. Personally I do not think it was intended for a half doubloon, although it is curions that anyone should trim such a coin to this extent.

As for the value of the piece, you can very well reckon it yourself by comparing it with the prices brought by other Brasher doubloons.

It makes one more to add to the list of known Brasher pieces, of which there are nine known, and this makes a tenth.

May I ask if you possess a 20,000 reis piece of Brazil of the Republican issue? I have handled quite a number of Brazilian coins, but just recently have seen the first of the above pieces. Nearly every year since the Republican mint has operated (from 1889) there have been a limited number of 10,000 and 20,000 reis struck, but they seldom get into the hands of the collectors, This particula piece is dated 1913.

I am returning the Brasher doubloon by express to-day

Sincerely yours,

(signed) E.H.Adams

copy

Newcomer & Company
National Exchange Bank Bldg.,
Baltimore, Md.

April 4th, 1925.

Mr. E.H.Adams,
Bayville, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Adams:-

I have your letter of the 2nd inst., and appreciate very much the trouble you took about the Brasher piece, which came safely to hand this morning.

It is still not quite clear to me, however, whether you took into consideration the fact, which I pointed out in my previous letter, that the planchet of this piece is much thinner than that of the doubloon. I measured the diameter of both pieces and made a calculation as to the amount of loss in weight due to the removal of that much in diameter of a piece of uniform thickness and reached the conclusion that the clipping could not possibly account for more than 10% of the original weight, whereas this piece weighs less than half the weight of a doubloon and is not sufficiently worn on the surface to account for such a loss of weight. It looked to me, therefore, as if a planchet of the weight of a half doubloon had been used and struck from the same dies as the doubloon, resulting in the appearance of a clipping.

I understand that this coin has been approved by both Mr. David Proskey and Mr. B.G.Johnson, of the St. Louis Stamp & Coin Company, who have pronounced the coin absolutely genuine and O.K. as a half doubloon, but knowing you as I do I would rather rely upon your opinion than theirs, and am merely writing this to be sure that you had considered the above question in reaching your decision.

As for the Brazilian piece referred to in your letter, I have a specimen dated 1906, and saw one a few days ago, which I returned, and my recollection is that it was dated 1922.

Very truly yours,

W.N.

Copy

Newcomer & Company
National Exchange Bank Bldg.,
Baltimore, Md. April 9, 1925.

Mr. Elmer S. Sears,

Swansea, Mass.

Dear Mr. Sears:-

Referring to your letter of March 23rd, with your permission, I sent the Brasher piece to Mr. Edgar H. Adams, and I am enclosing herewith his letter on the subject under date of April 2. Not being fully satisfied that he had gone into the matter with full care, I wrote him under date of April 4th, and enclose copy of my letter herewith. His reply of April 7th also enclosed leaves the matter of the exact status of this piece so much in doubt that I do not feel justified in putting this much money into it, and under the circumstances, I am returning it to you today by express to Fall River.

I am sorry to dissapoint ypu, but feel sure you will understand the situation.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Waldo Newcomer

Copy

Edgar H.Adams,
Bayville, N.Y.

April 7th,1925.

Mr. Waldo Newcomer,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Newcomer:-

It may be that the piece you sent was intended as a half doubloon, and your reasoning may be correct, as the piece certainly has seen no circulation, and is probably about the same weight as when struck, allowing for the trimming, if it was trimmed.

The idea of it being a half doubloon would not have suggested itself to me unless my attention was drawn to it. It is certain that at the period when such pieces were struck gold coins were passed in circulation according to their weight and fineness.

I think the other piece you possess bearing Brasher's name, of the value of a doubloon, would indicate that if Brasher wished to strike a half doubloon he would have made another die of the four escudos design similar to that of the eight escudos.

I have the highest respect for the opinions of both gentlemen you mention, and it may be that they are right in their assumption that the piece was intended to serve as a half doubloon, but I doubt it.

Thanks very much for the information regarding the Brazilian gold pieces. I have been at work for some time preparing a list of the gold and silver coins of Brazil, from the first issue. I am taking Meili as a basis, and adding everything I can find contained in the collections of Souza Lobo, Ramos, Da Silva, Carvalho, and others in order to bring the list right up to date. It is some task, but now pretty well completed, and am sure it will be worth the trouble spent on it.

Sincerely yours,
E.H.Adams

April 15th,1925.

Waldo Newcomer,
Nat'l Exchange Bank Bldg.,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:-

I have been in New York for the past week or ten days, hence the delay. When I arrived home I found your letter of April 9th and have noted what both you and Mr. Adams have to say regarding it. Inthe first place, I understand the situation thoroughly and you need not apologize for the return of the coin.

I would say that I was dissapointed in view of the fact that I supposed I had placed within your reach a most unusual thing in this line. I was also surprised to read some of the notations which Mr. Adams had made regarding the piece. In the first place after a careful examination of the coin he says that he thought it was genuine. He says that it has been much trimmed. I deny this absolutely and feel that he has slipped a cog and jumped at a conclusion. The piece has not been trimmed as the edge does not show it in any way. The reason for his belief in this matter is the fact that Brasher instead of cutting a die for the half Dabloon used his old die and the planchett for the proper weight which of cours was not large enough to take in the whole design.

Again in his letter of Mar.8th he admits that you might have been correct and that the piece might have been intended for a half Dabloon as it had seen no circulation. Also he says, (using the words, "allowing for trimming") that it was trimmed, therein showing that in his own mind he was not sure regarding this. He also says that the idea of this being a half Dabloon would not have suggested itself unless his attention was drawn to it. He also say that the period when such pieces were struck, the coins were placed in circulation according to the weight and fineness. Again he admist of the possibility of my being right in my contention that it was a half Dabloon. While I have always had the deepest regard for the opinion of Mr. Adams I do not think it would weigh against such authorities as David Prosky and B.G.Johnson of St. Louis. It cost much money in those days to make new dies and the fact that we find many Colonials with ~~only~~ the obverse muled with another reverse, it shows conclusively that the people striking these coins would be as economical as could be when it came to cutting the dies.

Perhaps on mature deliberation of the matter you will think better and I note with pleasure that your own judgement agrees with mine and as for my own sake I am absolutely certain as far as one can be that my contention in the matter is perfectly right.

April 15th,1925.

Waldo Newcomer.

Even if the coin had been clipped as you say the piece would not weigh anywhere near what it should to be a Doubloon. I still believe, Mr. Newcomer, that the piece in question is a most unusual acquisition and I would ask you to think the matter over and then write me your final conclusion, which of course I shall be pleased to abide with.

If I do not succeed in making this sale with you I intend to take it up with one or two other customers which I have but I should like to have it come from you yourself that you are entirely satisfied that you do not care to acquire it.

Thanking you very much for your attention in the matter and trusting that upon mature deliberation on your part, you will see the thing as I do, I am

Cordially yours,

ESTABLISHED 1890

TELEPHONE FALL RIVER 2629-R

ELMER S. SEARS

NUMISMATIST

ANTIQUES, BRIC-A-BRAC, GOLD, SILVER
AND PRECIOUS STONES
BOUGHT AND SOLD

SWANSEA, MASSACHUSETTS

IMPORTER OF
AND
DEALER IN
COINS AND MEDALS
OF EVERY
COUNTRY AND
PERIOD

COLLECTIONS
CATALOGUED AND
SOLD BY AUCTION

APPRAISEMENTS
MADE FOR
EXECUTORS OF ESTATES
AND COLLECTORS

April 16th,1925.

David Proskey,
% New York Stamp& Coin Co.,
6th Ave. at 51st St.,
New York,N.Y.

My dear Mr. Proskey:

I have just received a letter from my customer regarding the rare Brasher and I am enclosing same for your inspection, together with a copy of my letter to him in answer to what he has written.

You will note he has returned the coin and his reason for so doing has been simply and solely upon advise from our friend Adams. You will note in my letter to him I have showed wherein I think Adams was wrong and he may change his mind upon receipt of my letter.

I should like to hear your ideas regarding this and also what you think ot my letter to him and my stand in the matter. I am very much dissapointed in this, as I fully believed that he would take the coin.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Very truly yours,

Elmer S. Sears.

ES/ET







New York Coin & Stamp Co. Inc.

COINS, MEDALS, PAPER MONEY, ANTIQUITIES

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912 SIXTH AVENUE, N. Y.

BETWEEN 51st AND 52nd STREET

TELEPHONE CIRCLE 3851

April 18, 1925.

My dear Sears:-

I thank you for Submitting the correspondence relative to the Brasher Half Doubloon and will say that my opinion still id that it is unique so far as known and in no way could have been clipped or cut down from a Doubloon- as not a trace is shown of any tampering with the edge and no man can cut down any coin and leave the edge natural.

While Mr. Adams is well known to me for years, I cannot consider him an expert on such a subject and really think his error of judgment must be owing to failing eyesight, as in case of a " new discovery fo a cent" in the 1820 's or 1830 's - published a few years ago in the Numismatist which was Supposed to have 12 stars in place of 13 and which even showed the 13 stars in the photo -engraving published? Mr Adams I've always considered a very clever coin merchant but not a Numismatist in the strict sense of determining the real from the false. The late Mr. Low had the same lack of discrimination, and for many years would bring me coins and medals to have the counterfeits weeded out-- even the rare Hard Times token" Man & Brother " - he believed to be false when it bears every indication if being made by the same die sinker who produced the common " Woman & Sister". It is only necessary fo a person to compile a list of any series or become a member of a society in this U. S. to be styled an " Expert" - and the less they Know the more they write.

I do not know Mr. Newcomber but think his diagnosis is superior to that of Mr. Adams - as he has also observed the points which would prove conclusively the coin was never a Doubloon. The more fact of the coin not showing any wear is certainly in its favor instead of against it- as in case of the proof Confederate Half Dollar which was " unique " until Mr. Adams heard of a circulated worn specimen although we know four were coined.

In case you do not dispose of the Brasher in the next week or so I would like to show it to a N.Y. Collector who would be interested in it, as he bought my N.J. Washington Cent and other scarce pieces. I may be able to dispose of it for you.

I notice Mr. A. appears in his letters to be more interested in his offering of the Brazilian coin (Guttag's probly) than in giving close inspection to the coin submitted for his opinion [illegible] to deprive it.

I fear the lack of financial interest in the matter may have warped his ideas.

I enclose a rubbing of a curious mint error , an 8 Reales 1784 struck on a 4 Reales planchet Mexico City mint.

Truly yours,

F. C. C. BOYD
SECRETARY
59 WEST 12TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

The New York Numismatic Club

November 11, 1943

$4500

Mr. B. G. Johnson
St. Louis Stamp and Coin Company
408 Olive Street
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Burdette:

I am in receipt of the Brasher Doubloon, and it is entirely satisfactory to me. Enclosed please find my check in the amount of $4,500. If you have any history of this piece, I would be glad to have it. I think from the weight of it, it is the one that was sold at the Ten Eyck sale, but I am not sure. Is there any memorandum where the piece was purchased?

In regard to the other memorandum lots which I have of the Half Dollars and the Pattern $20 Gold Piece, as I have been out of town since the receipt of these, I have not had an opportunity of checking them over. I trust you will pardon the delay in making a report on them.

Will you please send me a receipted bill covering the payment of the Brasher Doubloon.

I am returning one Pattern Gold Dollar which you sent me on consignment under date of September 29th, as this is a duplicate of the Gold Dollar which I purchased in my last lot from you.

Sincerely yours,

fccb/sk

November 15th, 1943

Mr. F. C. C. Boyd
131 Varick Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Fred:

Thanks for your remittance of $4500.00 covering the Brasher Doubloon for which I enclose receipted bill herewith. The Pattern Gold Dollar also received safely that you returned.

I am writing Mr. Brand today asking for the information you desire about the Doubloon.

I have not for a second forgot your want list of $20.00 pieces but have been completely overwhelmed with work and have had no chance at hunting them out, which I will do shortly, however. In any event, as you of course know, no one else will have a chance at them until you make your decision.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

BGJ:JL
Enc.

November 17th, 1943

Mr. F. C. C. Boyd
131 Varick Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Fred:

Mr. Brand advises me that the Brasher Doubloon came from the TenEyck Collection, as you suspected.

I believe the pedigree of the coin is given fully in the TenEyck Catalogue.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

BMJ:JL

April 11, 1958

Dr. Sarah Freeman
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Dr. Freeman:

I haven't written you for quite a while and have been busy doing American coin research, nevertheless. I will have an article in the Centennial edition of the A.N.S. and just submitted a monograph to them on certain Massachusetts silver coinage.

I believe that there is in your collection, a Spanish-type Brasher Doubloon, dated 17h2, and I wonder if you have a picture of it you could send me. I know that you have two specimens of the regular Brasher Doubloons with the New York insignia but the Spanish-type is the one I have under investigation. I have already obtained photographs of the other known specimen.

If there is any information on your card with respect to the Spanish-type Doubloon, that would be of interest to me also.

Dr. Barry Wood, who formerly was at Washington Universit in St. Louis, could not resist coming to Hopkins Medical School, as a challenge. I told him, when he left, that one fine day I would come around asking to see the coins.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P.NEWMAN

EPN/atb

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE 18, MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

May 5, 1958

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am enclosing photographs, which you wanted, of our Brasher Spanish-type doubloon.

As you probably know, the other known piece was once in the Garrett Collection, ex-Ten Eyck. Mr. Garrett disposed of it through Mehl, when he acquired this piece via Newcomer. It had been contributed to the Red Cross in 1914 by an elderly lady then residing in Cumberland, Maryland. It had presumably been in her family for years, without anyone knowing what it really was.

I believe Mrs. Wood mentioned having known you in St. Louis. Dr. Wood has nothing whatsoever to do with the coins, nor with the regulations established for their care and use. Since it takes a little time, and is not always convenient, due to other uses of the rooms involved, it is necessary to make an appointment in advance and list the specific items or general group which you wish to see. Since the exhibits which we have at Evergreen House, where our collections are now kept, are open to the public in the afternoon, we prefer to schedule study appointments, etc., during the morning. The House is open from nine to five, Monday through Friday.

The picture of the doubloon is intended to be actual size; if you want weight or any other details, I'll be glad to furnish them.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Elizabeth Freeman

Sarah Elizabeth Freeman

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE 18, MARYLAND

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The picture of the doubloon is intended to be actual size; if you want weight or any other details, I'll be glad to furnish them.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Elizabeth Freeman

May 12, 1958

Mr. Walter Breen
Box 1024 Grand Central Station
New York 17, New York

Dear Walter:

The Centennial edition of ANS was really nice and I am delighted the two of us together could do something in the American field. I enjoyed your article tremendously and wish to discuss certain phases of it with you.

I have a new theory on the use of the Connecticut Mint by Leavenworth in 1786. It may have been used in 1786 to make the Nova Eborac coppers. They were dated ahead 1787 because the New York Assembly would not meet in time to pass on the franchise, etc. and therefore the coins were post-dated in the hope that they could be used for the franchise and that up-to-date samples would be available for the legislature to consider. How does that appeal to you?

I notice you went very lightly with respect to the Spanish Brasher Doubloon. I am developing my own thoughts on the subject and wonder if you have ever checked the marks of Brasher on silver with those used on the Spanish Doubloon and those used on the counterstamped coins. If you haven't, I am going to. I also call your attention to the fact that the Hopkins specimen is dated 1742 in one place and 1760 or 1768 in the other and that the legend around the outside is ridiculous. Don't press me for my opinion of the coin as all the facts with respect to it are not accurate.

You requested a copy of my Vermont material and I am enclosing the reprint which ANS sent me. Unfortunately, they left out one of the plates but are trying to do something about it. I would like very much to have a reprint of your article.

I also want to thank you, at this time, for the nice written remarks concerning my exhibit at the Central States Convention.

I don't know the whereabouts of D. Wayne Johnson. I telephoned Washington University and they advise me that his parents' address is 2100 W. 48th Street Terrace, Kansas City 3, Missouri.

May 12, 1958

I haven't been able to study your problems concerning the Connecticut Mints but will do so at my first free opportunity.

Bressett writes me that you have a new variety of an Oak Tree which you call Noe 7-A. Do you have a picture of it, or, where is the coin so that I might borrow it.

I have turned in a monograph on Massachusetts silver which Noe did not write about and would like to include any new varieties and any new forgeries. Would you check your file and see what new pieces you know of. It would be very helpful to me. The principal portion of my monograph is on the Good Samaritan Shilling.

My very kindest regards and congratulations on your continued fine writings.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

May 12, 1958

Dr. Sarah E. Freeman
Fine Arts
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore 18, Maryland

Dear Dr. Freeman:

I am very pleased to learn from your letter that your coins are in a position to be shown on prior application and thank you, very much, for that information.

The photographs of the Brasher Spanish Doubloon are excellent. I am sure you saw Walter Breen's writeup of the Brashers in the ANS Centennial publication. (My article on Vermont in that book may be of interest to you also.)

With respect to the Spanish Brasher Doubloon, I would be very interested in knowing when Mr. Garrett acquired your specimen from Newcomber and any other information your card may show with respect to it. Would you be kind enough to examine the outer rings of lettering and see if you can read them. I can only guess at "PHILIP V DG ? REX ANO 1768" and "HISPAN???? ET IND REX." This date differs from the 1742 date in the central portion and the text deviates from Peruvian Doubloon types.

In the past you advised me of other gold coins (#2178-83 incl.) with the "EB" counterstamp. Is the punch used on any of these the same as the one used on either the Brasher Spanish Doubloon or your Brasher New York Doubloons? Have any pictures been made of those counterstamps to compare them with Brasher's silver marks?

Your help on this research is much appreciated. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

ENN/atb

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE 18, MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

May 19, 1958

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am glad that the photographs of the Brasher Lima style doubloon met with your approval. It is the same as that published in the ANS Centennial volume.

Mr. Garrett substituted this piece for the other one in 1931, before Mehl took the Newcomer Collection for sale. He did so since it was in somewhat better condition, and because the lettering around the edge was more complete. Even at that it is not too legible.

On one side there is certainly: PHILIP ·V·D·G H·REX ANO·1700 The 17 in the date is obvious; only the bottom half of the two O's is there, but I am sure that is what they are. There is too much to make any other numeral such as an eight.

On the other side: HISPAN [IARVM] ET IND REX ·. · I would not swear to the IARVM. There are only traces, but that is the way it has been read.

I gathered from Mr. Breen's article that there was no intention to copy an actual coin, or specific issue, so the conflict in dates or deviation in legend from the Peruvian type is of no consequence.

As far as I can tell, the counterstamps on our pieces are identical, and like those on the doubloons. None of ours, while in our collection, has been used for comparison with Brasher's silver marks. However, we now own the British sovereign, ex-Ellsworth, and Howland Wood's West Indies #123, discussed by Breen, p. 139 f., which appears to be one Breen included in his comparison, which ipso facto suggests that our counterstamps would be like the silver marks.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Elizabeth Freeman

Sarah Elizabeth Freeman

A rectangular EB counterstamp on a worn 1799 dollar is illustrated on plate VI of Bolender's United States Early Silver Dollars and described on page 58. This counterstamp is different from those on silver spoons I have and on the gold pieces. This coin must have been counterstamped well after 1800 as the 1799 coin is substantially worn.

EPN/atb
5/26/59

A rectangular EB counterstamp on a worn 1799 dollar is illustrated on plate VI of Bolender's United States Early Silver Dollars and described on page 58. This counterstamp is different from those on silver spoons I have and on the gold pieces. This coin must have been counterstamped well after 1800 as the 1799 coin is substantially worn.

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EPN/atb
5/26/59

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

P. K. ANDERSON, Board of Governors

101 East Second Street

HOBART, OKLAHOMA

August 1, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
6450 Cecil Ave.,
St. Louis 5, Missouri.

Dear Eric:-

I should have answered your letter much sooner than this but I did not know the answer to your questions off-hand, so started to look them up. Much to my embarrassment I now have to report that I have nothing in my library which gives me the legend on the Lima Doubloon. I have searched rather thoroughly and have come up with nothing. I have books on the Mints at Mexico, Santiago and Potosi but nothing on Lima. I was told several years ago that Humberto F. Burzio had a book on the Lima mint in preparation but it apparently has not reached the publication stage. I feel certain that I would have heard about it if it had been released. The Lima Doubloon is entirely different from those of the other mints so we can not fall back on them.

I read, with interest, your paper on the Good Samaritan Shilling. I am always interested in anything pertaining to coins even if I don't collect that particular series. Keep it up.

Tearfully Thine,

"P.K."

PK.

September 15, 1959

Mr. Adolpho Hale
Peleteria Hale
Bolivar 101
Mexico, D.F.

Dear Mr. Hale:

I was talking with my cousin, Charles Edison, of Boston, and he told me about seeing some of your collection.

I enjoy collecting very much but, at the present, am doing considerable research and writing with respect to coins.

I would like to obtain a picture of a 1742 doubloon from Peru and wonder whether you have one in your collection, whether you know any others who might have, or whether you know of a book in which it could be illustrated. This would be most helpful to me.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Adolfo

~~Adolfo~~ Hale

pho

Peleteria Hale

Bolivar 101 Bolivar ?

Mexico D. F.

Pirineos 829, Mex 10. D.F.



PELETERIA HALE, S. A.

APARTADO Nº 12012 BOLIVAR Nº 101 TELEFONO 21-63-63

MEXICO 1, D.F.

September 17, 1959.

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Ave.,
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am very happy to answer your kind letter of the 15th in which you ask for information about a Peruvian coin of 8 Escudos 1742.

I am very sorry to let you down on this, but I am not able to supply very much information on this coin as I do not have it my collection. I only collect gold coins of the world from the 19th and 20th centuries.

I do not know of anybody that has it, but if you wish to see a picture of it, you can look at Robert Fried-- berg's GOLD COINS OF THE WORLD in page 41, lot # 5.

If I can be of more help in the future, please do not hesitate to call on me, I will be glad to do what I can.

Also if you run into, meet, or write to Mr. Char- les Edison, give him my best regards.

Very truly yours,

ADOLFO HALE

AH/bh.

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 · INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY BETWEEN 155TH AND 156TH STS
NEW YORK 32, N.Y.

December 2, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

After some excavation which took us longer than we anticipated, it is now possible for me to write to you about the illustrations on Breen's plate in our Centennial volume in which you are interested. Of the three (Nos. 2, 4 and 9) we have a negative only for No. 2 which was not taken of the actual specimen but of an illustration in an auction catalogue. I am enclosing a print of it herewith. No. 4 is the Yale University specimen and No. 9 is in the Johns Hopkins University collection, and the prints used by us for them were furnished by Yale and Johns Hopkins respectively. We can, of course, make copies of these if you should like. Maybe though, it would be better for you to get the prints directly from Yale and Hopkins.

CABLE ADDRESS
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK



TELEPHONE
AUDUBON 6-3030

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 · INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY BETWEEN 155TH AND 156TH STS.
NEW YORK 32, N.Y.

December 2, 1959

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Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

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Let me again thank you for the very interesting talk you gave at our Fall Meeting. We are grateful to you also for the arrangements you have made to take care of your expenses in connection with that occasion.

Sincerely yours,

Sawyer McA. Mosser

Sawyer McA. Mosser
Secretary

SMM:RMg
encl.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE 18, MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

December 18, 1959

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

It is indeed nice of you to think of giving the spoons with the Brasher hallmarks to the University, where they might be kept and exhibited with the doubloons. We still have no place for permanent exhibitions, but I hope we will in the not too distant future. At least, now, everything is available for study, and there is something on display most of the time.

We are working right now on a show to be called "South of the Border," which will have a lot of our South American, Mexican, etc., coins, as well as antiquities on display.

I shall be delighted to send you the photographs of the counterstamps, but won't take them until I hear from you about some others. I don't know whether you are aware that we have other pieces, in addition to the New York and Spanish doubloons, which have the EB mark. We have another New York doubloon with EB on the wing (the one you meant is, I presume, that with EB in oval on breast); a Portuguese "Joe" with EB in oval; 4 English gold (4 guineas and a 1/4 guinea) coins with EB in oval; and a U.S.quarter dollar with EB in a rectangle. One of the guineas is that figured by Wood, "Coinage of the West Indies," AJN, 1914, p. 118, fig. 123, that has both the EB in an oval, and the script B.

I thought it likely that you might want some or all of these stamps also, so will hold up the picture-taking till I hear.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Elizabeth Freeman

Sarah Elizabeth Freeman

December 23, 1959

Miss Sarah Elizabeth Freeman
Department of Fine Arts
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore 18, Maryland

Dear Miss Freeman:

Thank you for your nice note of December 18, 1959. We will defer the matter of the gift of the "EB" spoons until you have an exhibition space available.

With respect to the photographs of the EB counterstamps, I would like the clearest one which is found on the Brasher New York Doubloons and the one on the Spanish Doubloon and one of those on the Portuguese "Joe". If it is easier to send one from an English piece instead of the Portuguese piece, please feel free to do so. I am sure you will make the photograph of the EB as large as possible on the negative so that it can be blown up very clearly.

If you have a picture of the U.S. quarter-dollar with EB stamped on it in a rectangle, I would be glad to see it and wonder if it is the same one illustrated in Bolender's book on U.S.Dollars.

As to the script counterstamp, I believe the initials are EB rather than just "B". Perhaps the left portion is not readily visible.

I look forward to receiving these pictures and if there are any further questions concerning them, please do not hesitate to advise us.

With best Holiday wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

By_____President

June 7, 1960

Metropolitan Museum of Art
5th Avenue and 82nd Street
New York, New York

Gentlemen:

I am writing an article on certain early American coinage and would like to determine whether a specific hallmark used by Ephraim Brasher, a New York silversmith, is genuine or counterfeit. One of his recognized hallmarks consists of the initials E·B within an oval. I have spoons containing the oval hallmark, but the hallmark punch was well worn when it was used on these spoons. My problem is to determine whether a counterfeit punch was subsequently made for the oval hallmark for use on certain coins. You, no doubt, have pieces in your collection containing these oval hallmarks and I would like to know whether you have any photographs of the hallmarks. It is possible that there could be more than one oval hallmark punch, but I doubt it. An enlargement of the genuine hallmark would solve my problem.

I will appreciate your cooperation in solving my problem.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:jd

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

June 22, 1960

Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman,

I am enclosing our price list.

The museum owns three silver pieces of Ephraim Brasher. They are: a bowl, a coffee pot and a pair of tongs. The hallmark appears only on the photograph of the tongs. The hallmark, described by a 1920 catalogue of the Clearwater Collection, reads: "E B (crude apparently with pellet between, twice (probably E. Brasher)."

As you will note from our price list, enlargements cost $4.00. The negative is about 1 1/2" x 3" and enlarged, would be about three times larger. I am not certain whether an enlargememt would give you the detail you need for identification purposes.

The only other thing we could do would be to photograph the object specially. As you see on the enclosed price list, the charge for this is $13.50, plus a possible handling fee.

May I suggest that you contact The American Numismatic Society, Broadway at 156th St., New York City 32, who may be able to assist you further.

We hope we can help you with our photographic material.

Very truly yours,

Priscilla Cunningham

Priscilla Cunningham
Photograph Sales

PC:mfi

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

PRICES OF PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK

MINIMUM ORDER: $1.00 for desk orders and $1.50 for mail and phone orders: packing and mailing extra.*

PHOTOGRAPHS, from existing negatives, of objects in the Museum collections: sheet size unmounted:

4 x 5	Matte or Glossy	$ .50
8 x 10	Matte or Glossy	1.50
11 x 14	Double Weight Matte	4.00
16 x 20	Double Weight Matte	7.00

Enlarged details from existing negatives may be ordered in the 8 x 10 size at $4.00.

NEGATIVES of book illustrations, prints and photographs in the Museum collections made on order:

8 x 10 $7.50

Plus $1.50 for each 8 x 10 print

NEGATIVES of art objects in the Museum collections made on order:

8 x 10 $13.50

Plus $1.50 for each 8 x 10 print

COLOR TRANSPARENCIES of objects in the Museum collections made on order:

2 x 2	Kodachrome	$10.00 and up
3 x 4	Ektachrome	20.00 and up
8 x 10	Ektachrome	75.00 and up for flat work
8 x 10	Ektachrome	125.00 and up for three-dimensional art objects

For all special photography the Museum reserves the right to charge accordingly.

PHOTOSTATS from prints, photographs and books:

9 x 14	Negative Only	$1.00
9 x 14	Negative and Positive	2.00
14 x 18	Negative Only	1.50
14 x 18	Negative and Positive	3.00

Additional charge for enlargement or reduction $1.00 each.

SLIDES, mounted in glass, from existing negatives of objects in the Museum collections:

2 x 2	Black and White	$2.50
3¼ x 4	Black and White	2.50

*PACKING AND MAILING CHARGES are added to the above prices as follows:

Orders up to $5.00	$ .40
Orders from $5.00 To $10.00	.50
Orders over $10.00	1.00

ORDERS GENERALLY REQUIRE 2 TO 3 WEEKS FOR COMPLETION.

ALL RIGHTS OF REPRODUCTION, IN ANY MEDIUM, MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.

SALES ORDERS AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

PHOTOGRAPH SALES
THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
FIFTH AVENUE AT 82ND STREET
NEW YORK 28, NEW YORK

PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1958

July 7, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

In the Guide Book the Brasher Spanish Doubloon is the subject of some doubt as to its authenticity and I am wondering who is working on this matter other than myself. Do you know where the source of this doubt comes from? I was planning on writing an article on the subject when my material is completed.

Please let me hear from you on this item.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

July 11, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

When we were putting together material for the fourteenth edition GUIDE BOOK, George Fuld helped on several matters and tipped me off that someone was writing an article that would discredit the Lima type Brasher doubloon. I surmised that this meant you, judging from what you had written to me before concerning this coin.

I also know that Walter Breen firmly believes that the coin is genuine, and having no real knowledge of the piece myself, I have formed no personal opinion. The statement that I put in the GUIDE BOOK, therefore, was merely to cover us in case something was published during the year which would indicate that this coin was not authentic.

It looks as if Walter and Lynn and you have all come up with bits of information proving how corrupt the mint officials were during the period that the 1804 dollars were struck. How is the rest of your research on the dollars coming along? I hope that you will be able to start putting some sort of a story together soon so that we will be able to publish the book at an earlier date.

I will probably get together with Walter and Lynn at the ANA Convention in Boston to discuss the 1804 story. Is there any chance that you will be there?

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

November 15, 1960

Mr.Philip D. Greco
764 Broadway
Somerville 44, Mass.

Dear Mr. Greco:

I am glad to see your continued enthusiasm in the Colonial field and I know that your work will encourage the interest of mahy others.

I am writing you because I am very intrigued by the 1799 silver dollar with the Brasher counterstamp which you indicate you are going to receive. I am doing an article on Brasher and would very much like to have an excellent picture of this silver dollar. Would you be nice enough to send me pictures of the item so that I may study it. As you know, a similar piece is illustrated in the Bolender work on silver dollars.

Your cooperation will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

PHILIP D. GRECO
764 Broadway
West Somerville 44, Mass.
MOnument-6-5343

We specialize in Early American and Colonial coins by die-varieties. All orders sent Air Mail. Approvals sent to those with established credit or with suitable refrences. Five day return privilege. Photographs(4x5 enlargements) can be had of any coin mentioned in this list at a charge of forty cents.

MASSACHUSETTS

1652 Pine Tree Shilling Noe-1, advanced die state; a witch piece; G-VG with a small edge cut..$37.50

1787 Mass. half cent 5-A; AU with several small pits on the reverse; nice blue toning...$35.00

1787 Mass. cent 8-G, one of the two or three known with the newly discovered obverse 8; VG-Fine with a counterstamp on both sides; a rarity-8 piece; unlisted by all major refrence works. See Plate...$175.00

1788 Mass. cent 15-M, another discovery of recent date; about 6 or 7 known; unlisted; rarity-7; a nice VG with even wear; possibly the fourth finest known; See Plate $37.50

1788 Mass. cent 11-E, a common piece but condition-wise it is nice; XF...$25.00

CONNECTICUT CENTS(Miller Attributions)

1787 16^{5}-n. Large Letters. a dark G-VG with all features showing..$4.50

1787 25-m. VG with a slight dig on the rev. rim; R-5..$8.50

1787 27-a^{1}. The field around the head on the reverse is weak; Abt. Fine; seldom obtainable in this condition; R-5...$17.50

1787 37^{11}-ff^{2}. a dark VG.....$8.50

CONN. contd.

1787$3^{43}$-hh^{2}. Good for the overall condition; damage on the obverse....$3.00

1787 33^{45}-w^{2}. An unlisted die break on the obverse; starts from the lower middle part of the neck advancing through the toga and terminates at the rim; Unique....See Plate...$37.50

1787 56-XX. unlisted by all major refrence works; a recent discovery; This combination has both a new obverse and a reverse of the fleuron type varieties; a rarity-8; VG with a little roughness;See Plate..$47.50

FUGIO CENTS

1787 N-11-B. a nice brown Unc..$35.00

1787 N-12-M. R-7; VG....$12.50

1787 N-12-U. R-7; VG....$12.50

1787 N-18-U. VG..$9.50
VF..$27.50

1787 N-19-Z. a type coin with WE ARE ONE very large; a rarity 7; G-VG..$27.50

1787 N-21-I. Good...$10.00

VOCE POPULI HALFPENNIES

1760 Nelson-2. a dark Fine; a popular series;..$15.00

WANT LISTS INVITED FROM SERIOUS COLLECTORS

VOCE POPULI contd.

1760 Nelson-6. VG; very rare. sold

1760 Nelson-13. A piece unlisted by Nelson. The reverse is new, the obverse is known in combination with #11. VF with a small mint clip; See plate...sold

WASHINGTON PIECES

1783 Unity States. AU..$25.00

1783 Military Bust; Small Head type; rare; VG...$22.50

1783 Military Bust; 9-D VG..$8.50

Undated Double Head. Good..$5.00
VG....$7.50
Fine..$11.00

1793 Ship Halfpenny. F+..$16.50

1795 Grate Cent. Oblique Reeding; Small Button variety;VF+..$20.00

1795 Liberty & Security halfpenny. VF+; slight edge bump; lettered edge...$17.50

Success Token, small; plain edge; with three fourths of the surface silvered; XF, rare....$47.50

MISCELLANEOUS

1766 Pitt Halfpenny Fine..$14.00
VF....$22.50

Kentucky Token. Unc. brown..lettered edge...$35.00

1787 Auctori Plebis cent. VF with the usual weak center...$23.50

MISC. contd.

1789 Mott Token. Thick flan AU..$25.00

1723 Hibernia halfpenny; 11 strings; XF-AU; scarce in this condition..$20.00

1722 Rosa Americana halfpenny. UTILE DULCI-.D:G.REX.; Crosby-2; F-VF...$15.00

1787 New Jersey cent M-62-q. F-VF with obv. break..$10.50

1787 New Jersey cent M-44-d. without die break. Good..$7.50

1787 Connecticut cent. common variety; struck over another Conn. cent and incused by another VG discolored..$15.00

1786 Conn. cent 5^{4}-G. buckling on head and neck. VG...$7.50

1788 Vermont cent. R-27; BB-102; VG without die break...$9.50

1800 Large Cent S-211; VG-10; advanced die state...$17.50

1891-S Dime. An unlisted error. A large S over a small s. A recent discovery and possibly unique. Will gain tremendously in popularity if more are found. Unfortunately this piece is only in VG condition. The error can easily be seen...$45.00

Reproduction of the Maryland $6 plate of April 10, 1774. Just a few made. A very interesting piece...$12.50

Of interest to collectors of Early American and Colonial coins, is a newsletter devotedly exclusively to this field. It contains new and unlisted information with special recognition to die varieties. More information may be had by writing:

The Colonial Newsletter
P.O. Box 114
Wayland, Massachusetts

N.B.

Within the near future, We will have on consignment a 1799 Silver Dollar with the counterstamp of Ephraim Brasher punched on it several times. It is considered very rare and valuable. All inquiries invited.


WEALTH
COMMON


BERN
1760

December 5, 1960

Boston Public Library
Copley Square
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I have a reference to an article published in the Boston Transcript during the year 1886 about the Brasher Family, of New York. Unfortunately, there is no specific date given. In connection with an article on coinage I am writing I need this reference.

Would you be kind enough to advise me whether the Boston Transcript is on microfilm and whether that microfilm might be borrowed on inter-library loan through the Missouri Historical Society Library, in St. Louis.

I will be very grateful for your prompt cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

December 5, 1960

Boston Public Library
Copley Square
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I have a reference to an article published in the Boston Transcript during the year 1886 about the Brasher Family, of New York. Unfortunately, there is no specific date given. In connection with an article on coinage I am writing I need this reference.

Would you be kind enough to advise me whether the Boston Transcript is on microfilm and whether that microfilm might be borrowed on inter-library loan through the Missouri Historical Society Library, in St. Louis.

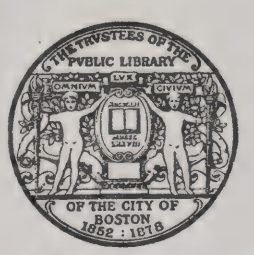
I will be very grateful for your prompt cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P.NEWMAN

EPN/atb

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ERVIN J. GAINES
FRANCIS X. MOLONEY



Chief Librarians
JOHN M. CARROLL
BRADFORD M. HILL (Acting)

MILTON EDWARD LORD, *Director*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Boston 17, Massachusetts
January 21, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
Saint Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

In reply to your inquiry of December 5, 1960, the report of Mr. Michael J. Venezia of the Science and Technology Department, Patent Section, is given below:

As there is no published index to articles which appeared in the Boston Evening Transcript during this period, it would be very difficult to locate the item concerning the Brasher Family of New York in the issues for the year 1886.

To make a day by day search for the entire year would take much more time than is allowed. However, a member of the staff might be willing to do this on his own time for a fee. Arrangements would have to be made directly between you and such a person. We shall be glad to recommend someone if you so desire.

The Boston Evening Transcript from July 1830 through December 1862 and from January 1916 through April 1941 is on microfilm. January 1863 through December 1915 are preserved in bound volumes.

The library has a strict policy of not loaning microfilm on Inter-library loan.

Very sincerely yours,

B Joseph O'Neil

Coordinator of General
Reference Services

January 31, 1961

Queen Ann - My new Boston Researcher -

I am writing an article on Ephraim Brasher who was a New York goldsmith and who made a coin in 1787, in New York. In a coin sale, in Boston, on February 1, 1887, the cataloguer states "within a few months the Boston Transcript has published an account of the Brashers". Since the catalogue was, no doubt, prepared and mailed out about one month before the sale it looks as though the article should have appeared in the latter part of 1886. The Boston Transcript for 1886 is in the Boston Public Library and I believe is known as the Boston Evening Transcript. There is no microfilm of the paper for this period but the originals are in bound volumes.

If you have nothing better to do I would be delighted if you could locate this article.

September 27, 1961

Dr.V. Clain-Stefanelli
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Val:

Whenever you return from your wonderful expedition to Europe, I would like to have a photograph of the EB counterstamp on your 1787 Brasher Doubloon as well as the word "Brasher" on the doubloon.

I would like the negative of those portions several times larger than the portions themselves if that can be accomplished easily because I need clarity and further enlargement. If you could arrange to have the picture or pictures taken I could have the prints made the size I need them. I will return the negatives to you.

I certainly missed seeing you when I was in Atlanta and know that our paths will cross soon again.

Kindest regards to you and your wife.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25. D. C.

October 2, 1961

Eric P. Newman, Esq.
Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

Your letter of September 22, addressed to Dr. Clain-Stefanelli, was received last week. He will be back at the end of this month, and will be delighted to arrange for special photographs that you requested of our 1787 Brasher Doubloon.

I am sorry that there will be a delay of several weeks, perhaps a month, before Dr. Stefanelli can reply to you. In the meantime, I want you to know that your letter was received, and I am glad to have this opportunity to reply to you personally. I remember our very pleasant meeting when you were at the Smithsonian earlier this year.

Sincerely yours,

Richard H. Howland

Richard H. Howland
Head Curator
Department of Civil History

PHILIP D. GRECO
NUMISMATIST

Specializing in Colonial and Early American private, state and federal coins, tokens and medals

POST OFFICE BOX 74 SOMERVILLE 44, MASSACHUSETTS

11/24/61

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you very much for the Fugio plates. They will certainly be of great help to me. Also, I can assure you there will be no reproduction of them.

Have enclosed the photo of the EB counterstamp. I cannot get actual size with my enlarger, so I enclosed the negatives which you may keep.

Should any new varieties come my way, I will keep you posted.

Very Sincerely,

Phil Greco

WANT LISTS INVITED FROM SERIOUS COLLECTORS

PHILIP D. GRECO
POST OFFICE BOX 74
SOMERVILLE 44, MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, MASS.
6:00 PM
24 NOV
1961



Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

FIRST CLASS



EB to
Mary Carl





January 4, 1962

Mr. V.Clain-Stefanelli, Curator
Division of Numismatics
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Val:

Thank you, thank you, and please! To elaborate, I wish to thank you, very much, for signing the petition in my behalf with respect to ANS. Regardless of what happens on Saturday I appreciate your sponsbrship.

Thank you, very much, for the data on the 1804 Class II dollar. This is very helpful to me in the proof of the date of the cutting of the dies.

Like all good prayers, they begin with multiple thanks and then have a request.

On September 27, 1961 I wrote to you asking for an enlarged picture of the EB counterstamp and of the word BRASHER on your 1787 Brasher Doubloon. I was hopeful that the negative would have some enlargements of these portions as I have to study them in great detail. I do not believe a regular enlargement from a one for one negative will do the trick. Dick Howland replied to my letter and said that these special photographs would be arranged after you returned from Europe. Somewhere, no doubt, my letter is lost, and I would appreciate it if you could revise the project. Research must go on!

I have finished writing the book on the 1804 Dollar and it is going to be full of surprises.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman, President
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 5, 1962

Eric P. Newman, President
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I received your kind letter of January 4th, and while your formal appointment will be known only tomorrow, I believe that congratulations are already in order, since your seat on the Council is actually assured. I'm gratified that Mr. Williamson's action was successful.

I am afraid that your letter of September 27th was filed in Mr. Howland's office. In any event, I haven't seen it. I shall ask our photo lab to prepare enlarged pictures of the Brasher Doubloon and will send them to you as soon as they are ready.

I am looking forward with keen anticipation to reading your book on the 1804 Dollar. I am wondering what surprises it has in store.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Val

V. Clain-Stefanelli
Curator
Division of Numismatics

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 20, 1962

Eric P. Newman, President
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Enclosed are enlargements of the portions of the Brasher Doubloon in which you are interested.

I'm sorry that it took so long. I hope that you will find these pictures useful.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Val

V. Clain-Stefanelli
Curator
Division of Numismatics

Enclosures

February 26, 1962

Mr. V. Clain-Stefanelli, Curator
Division of Numismatics
Smithsonian Institution
United States National Museum
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Val:

I am sincerely grateful for your pictures of the enlarged portions of your Brasher Doubloon. They are just what I needed. Your photographer did an outstanding job with a difficult subject. Now I will go to work studying the detail.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next opportunity,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

June 28, 1962

Mr. Walter Breen
C/o New Netherlands Coin Company
1 West 47th Street
New York 36, New York

Dear Walter:

I need help from you on a specific matter which has been bothering me. In your article on Brasher in the 1958ANS publication you stated that Brasher was employed by the Mint authorities to make assays for the Mint. This was, no doubt, based upon your citation which traces back to the AJN for July, 1892, Vol. 27, page 20, where it states:

> "He was employed by the authorities of the United States Mint, in 1792, to make assays for the Mint, 'on sundry coins of gold and silver, pursuant to instructions from the then Secretary of the Treasury' (Alexander Hamilton)."

You will note that the quotation marks within the sentence show that this statement was copied from somewhere else and the use of the word "then" means it was written quite some time after the event. Where in the world could this statement be quoted from? I have checked Hickcox, Crosby, Prime, Dickeson. Can you give me any leads?

Incidentally, Ken Bressett does not have a picture of the 1805 Dollar as taken in 1952. If you can send me a copy or let me make a copy from what you have that would be helpful.

Best wishes, as always,

EPN/atb

W.E Woodward Sale of Feb 1, 1887 Lot #807

"Within a few months the Boston Transcript has published an account of the Brashers, a family famous in the latter part of the last century as goldsmiths in New York"

July 2, 1962

Mr.E.J. Vaskas
Coin Editor
Evening Gazette
Worcester 1, Mass.

Dear Mr.Vaskas:

In the Boston Transcript there is an account of the Brasher Family in a coin sale, in Boston, on February 1, 1887. The cataloguer states that within a few months the Boston Transcript has published such an account. The catalogue was prepared and distributed at least one month before the sale. The article, therefore, should have appeared between July and November of 1886. If there is a file of the Boston Transcript in the American Antiquarian Society, would it be possible for you to see if you could locate this article. This would be a tremendous boost for some research I am doing. You are there.

You will get full credit for locating it in my use of the information. How about being a good sport and going on the hunt.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman, President

E.N/stb

the Boston Transcript has been checked by a friend + he says it does not contain this article. Is there another Boston newspaper which might have had it?

July 2, 1962

Mr.E.J. Vaskas
Coin Editor
Evening Gazette
Worcester 1, Mass.

Dear Mr.Vaskas:

In the Boston Transcript there is an account of the Brasher Family in a coin sale, in Boston, on February 1, 1887. The cataloguer states that within a few months the Boston Transcript has published such an account. The catalogue was prepared and distributed at least one month before the sale. The article, therefore, should have appeared between July and November of 1886. If there is a file of the Boston Transcript in the American Antiquarian Society, would it be possible for you to see if you could locate this article. This would be a tremendous boost for some research I am doing. You are there.

You will get full credit for locating it in my use of the information. How about being a good sport and going on the hunt.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman, President

EPN/atb

MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
FIFTH AVENUE, 103RD TO 104TH STREET
NEW YORK 29, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE LEHIGH 4-1672

July 11, 1962

Dear Mr. Newman:

In reply to your letter about Ephraim Brasher I am glad to send you what information I have about him.

about 1786 Brasher made for the United States Government the first gold pieces known as doubloons. They were octagonal in shape. I do not know anything else about them except that they are exceedingly rare and very valuable. I would suggest that you write to The American Numismatic Society, Broadway and 156th Street, New York, for further information.

I am very much interested in any details which you may have about Brasher. If anything is to be published I would be very grateful for a copy.

Hoping that this information may be helpful, I am

Sincerely yours,

V. Isabelle Miller

V. Isabelle Miller
Curator of Silver

Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

VIM.eks

NET PAID CIRCULATION · DAILY OVER 150,000 · SUNDAY OVER 100,000

WORCESTER TELEGRAM - The Evening Gazette - SUNDAY TELEGRAM

WORCESTER 1, MASSACHUSETTS

OWNERS OF RADIO STATIONS
WTAG AND WTAG-FM

RICHARD C. STEELE
PUBLISHER

July 12, 1962

Dear Mr. Newman;

Your request for some research to be done at the American Antiquarian Society will not go unheeded. It's been a few years since I did this type of work there (A series of 90 picture stories on historical spots throughout the Worcester County area, for the newspaper).

But, Mr. Newman, please be just a bit patient. Shortly after your letter arrived, I had to take my wife to the hospital. And yesterday I brought her home, along with a 7 lb. 5 oz. male baby-type human.

This is our fourth, but it still disrupts the houshold, and is very time-consuming. I suspect you understand. But I will get on the Brasher story as soon as possible. J.J.Teaparty, Brasher Doubloon restrike distributor, mentioned about two weeks ago that you were working on such an article. I once asked the Kagins for their brochure on this piece, but never received it. Is there a copy of Walter Breen's monograph on it around?

About your 1804 Dollar publication. I feel sure Whitman will send me a copy. Mr. Bressett, formerly of Worcester, sends all such releases to my column for reviews.

Just to follow up the Civil War dog-tag I mentioned in my last letter...Have you any idea on its background, how it got to England, its metal, etc?

July 16, 1962

Mr. E.J.Vaskas, Coin Editor
Evening Gazette
Worcester 1, Mass.

Dear Mr. Vaskas:

Congratulations on the arrival of your new numismatist.

I am delighted that you will look for the Brasher story in the Boston Evening Transcript. The sooner you can accomplish this the happier I will be.

The brochure which the Kagins sent out in connection with the Brasher situation was nothing more than a reprint of an article Art Kagin wrote in the November, 1957 Scrapbook. Walter Breen's article on the Brashers was published in the 1958 Centennial publication of the American Numismatic Society, page 137. I will make a photocopy for you if you need it.

I would like you to ask the American Antiquarian Society if they have the Boston Evening Transcript for 1886 so that much is out of the way.

I will certainly give you credit for locating this article when you do.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman, President

P.S. My recollection is that Merriam was a diesinker in Boston who put out Civil War tokens. In fact, I think he issued one or more himself. I will look this up tonight.

EPN

July 21

Dear E. P. N.

The society does have available the 1886 edition of the Transcript.

Now comes the eye-wearing part.

Does the cataloguer give any details on type, length, etc., or was it just an ad!

I suspect it will be closer to Nov. than July because of the summer inactivity of such sales.

But - we will see, if it's there!

Ed Dunbar

WORCESTER
JUL 21
3 1952

ABILITY COUN



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. E. P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St. Louis 5,
Mo.

July 25, 1962

Mr.E. J. Vaskas
Coin Editor
Evening Gazette
Worcester 1, Mass.

Dear Mr. Vaskas:

You will probably be unlucky enough to find the Brasher article in the first newspaper you look at and be deprived of reading all of the other interesting material in the Boston Transcript! The cataloguer gives no details on the length of the article but I am satisfied that it could not have been an advertisement. It could have been a part of a series on coins in general or just a general feature or filler. It apparently had no relation to the subsequent coin sale and was merely informational.

Happy hunting!

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman, President

EPN/atb

February 18, 1963

Mr. E. J. Vaskas -

I am certainly brokenhearted about the Boston Transcript matter and I leave it up to you as to whether you want to finish November and December.

He did up to Nov 15

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

March 26, 1963

Dr. Leon B. Leach
21 Sanderson Road
Lexington, Mass.

Dear Dr. Leach:

I have just spoken to Edwin Leventhal, who was attending a coin show in St. Louis, and he indicated that you had acquired the original of the John Hull Diary and were having difficulty in reading it. I was very interested in that fact and presume that you are fully familiar with its publication by the American Antiquarian Society in 1857 along with other matters concerning Massachusetts silver coinage. Being deeply interested in American Colonial coinage, I did want to find out if it was true that you had acquired the diary.

Incidentally, if you like research, which apparently you do, there is a matter which only a Bostonian can do. There is an article in the Boston Transcript about Ephraim Brasher and the Brasher family. It is mentioned in a February 1, 1887 sales catalogue by Woodward, and reads as follows:

> "Within a few months the Boston Transcript has published an account of the Brashers, a family famous in the latter part of the last century as goldsmiths in New York".

Whether he means one month, six months, or nine months, I do not know but it is essential that this article be found. It probably has information on Brasher which is much more accurate than the misstatements subsequently made in the various coin publications. Do you know anybody who would volunteer to try to locate this, or do you like to do that type of work? I would be most interested in your comments.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

April 11, 1963

Dr. Leon B. Leach
1751 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge 40, Mass.

Dear Dr. Leach:

It was nice to hear from you and I am glad to learn of your interest in research. I presume you looked through the Boston Transcript for 1886 and the first quarter of 1887 rather than 1856 and 1857 as your letter indicates.

You asked me whether it would be possible that the Brasher item would have been published after 1887. I do not believe so. What I now think is that catalogues, at that time, were written up far in advance and were printed several months before the sale. If we relatethe comment about the Brasher article to the time of writing of the catalogue and then accept his statement that "within a few months the Boston Transcript has published an account of the Brashers" it is entirely possible that his vagueness might have been published in 1885 or even 1884, since you did not find it in 1886. If you agree with me I think it would be well to begin at the end of 1885 and work backwards. There should be some kind of a genealogy section which would probably contain this type of article. It is of immense importance to find this article and I am so delighted you are willing to look for it. I know all toowell how frustrating these problems are but finding a needle in a haystack often opens the door to an entirely new concept. You can imagine how many records and documents I had to look through to find the Good Samaritan seal.

I will not attend the Wolfson Sale even though the 1804 Dollar will be the subject of much excitement, I presume.

April 11, 1963

I will tell my son that you are a numismatic dentist in case he sinks his teeth too far into some subject at Harvard.

Thank you for your wholehearted cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

LEON B. LEACH, D. M. D.
1751 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
CAMBRIDGE 40, MASS.

KI 7-7100

April 8, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Wish I really had the original Hull Diary, but I only have the American Antiquarium Society Publication of 1857. I will rectify the false impression I left at the next Collectors Club of Boston meeting. However, I find the copy quite interesting as it gives me a better understanding of early Mass. silver coins.

I am interested in doing Nusmismatic research and have gone to the library to look up that article about the Brasher family. So far I have looked through the Boston Transcripts of 1856 and the First quarter of 1857 and still do not find this article. Do you feel that the article was already printed by Feb. 1887 or that Woodward meant that it will be published a few months after his catalogue will come out? Let me know your opinion on this as I am desirious in helping in this matter.

LEON B. LEACH, D. M. D.
1751 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
CAMBRIDGE 40, MASS.
KI 7-7100

I hear you have a son at Harvard. If he has any dental problems, I am one of the staff dentists at the harvard health services and could be of assistance to him. If you come to Boston look me up.
Will appreciate hearing from you.

Respectfully,
Leon B. Leach, DMD

Leon B. Leach D.M.D.

LBL/jo

P.S.
Will you be in N.Y. 1st weekend in May for the Wolfson sale? If you are will get to see you then.

LEON B. LEACH, D. M. D.
1751 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
CAMBRIDGE 40, MASS.

KI 7-7100

June 24, 1963

Dear Eric Newman,

Pardon the delay but I wanted to wait until I had done more investigation on this project before writing. So far I have carefully examined the Boston Transcript of 1884, 1885 and 1886 with negative results. I will scrutinize 1887 before giving up unless you can find any other ref. to this article & feel that it would be worth while to go back further or forward on these papers. In my own mind I question the use of "within a few months" as possibly means in the future an article about the Breshi's will appear. Will let you know how further research is going.

P.S. Would like some background material as to why this interest in the article exists. Will give me more incentive!

Sincerely,
Leon

June 28, 1963

Dr. Leon B. Leach
1751 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge 40½ Mass.

Dear Dr. Leach:

I feel very let down that you have consumed so much research time with the Boston Transcript and not located the Brasher item. Possibly there is another alternative and that is that the newspaper was not the Boston Tramscript but another current Boston newspaper published in 1886. I should imagine that there would be articles on geneology and that this might have been one of them. If you feel like going further into the matter it would be wonderful.

The importance of finding this item is that no one knows anything about Brasher and I am involved, among other things, in determining whether the Brasher Spanish Doubloon is a bona fide coin or is not.

If you want a story of frustration with a happy ending, I am pleased to tell you that after fifteen years of fruitless research I have finally determined the meaning of the word "Bungtown" and will write it up as part of the book I am doing on English halfpence in America. This is strictly a New England expression and I am now in a position to prove that "Bung" means "anus" and that "Bungtown" is, in vulgar slang, "asshole town". It is a humorously derisive expression which ought to liven up a long-hair coin article with coarse pornography.

Thanks, very much, for your endless efforts and please feel free to make me work for you a little bit.

June 28, 1963

I like to get my teeth into everything except forgeries by dental casting methods.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc.
Book Publishers
393 SEVENTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 1, N. Y.
WIsconsin 7-0370

October 3, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Enclosed are two photographs of our Brasher Doubloon. One is actual size, the other is an enlargement.

Many thanks for your kind offer of the spoons made by Ephraim Brasher to travel around with the coin. The spoons would undoubtedly lend interest to our exhibition of the doubloon, but at this time I don't think that they will fit in with our plans. We are now completing construction of an elaborate exhibit unit in which we will house the coin and it doesn't appear that there will be room for the spoons. However, should we be able to incorporate them into the exhibit, I will let you know.

Cordially yours,

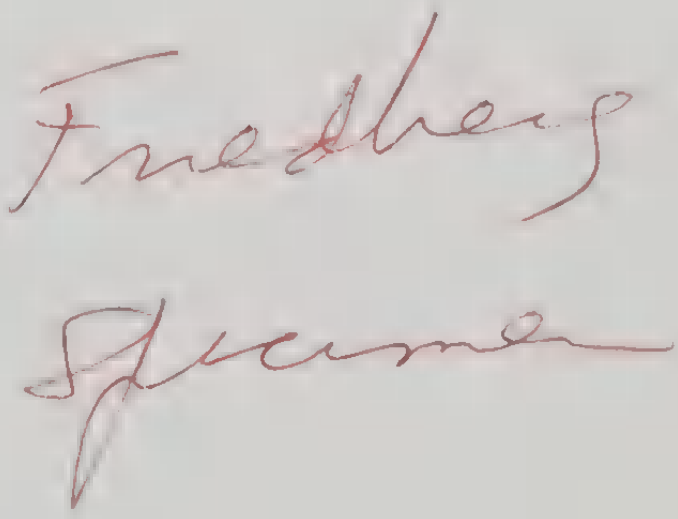
CAPITOL COIN CO. INC.

Jack

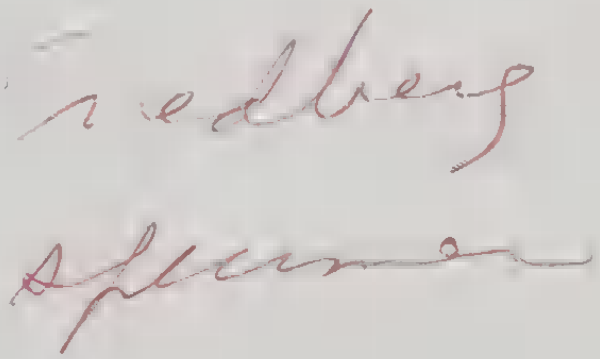
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JACK FRIEDBERG

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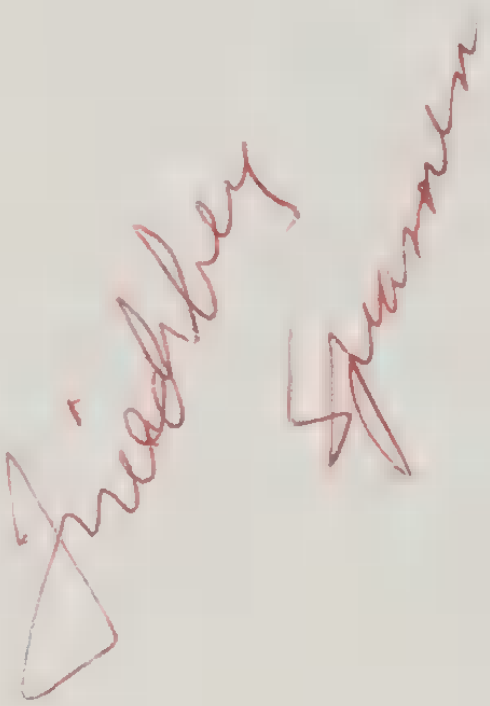


NOVA ALBIONACA COLUMBIA
BRASIL









The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc.
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393 SEVENTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001
WIsconsin 7-0370

February 4, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

According to a letter you wrote to Mr. Jack Friedberg on October 1, 1963, you are doing some research on the Brasher Doubloon.

The other day I was invited to give a talk on this piece at the Metropolitan New York Numismatic convention in May, so I am trying to obtain as much information as possible on the subject. Therefore, I was wondering if you would send me any pertinent data in your files on the Brasher Doubloon and if you would be willing to let me incorporate it in my talk.

Breen, in his article on this doubloon in the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK of June 1957 and the A.N.S. Centennial Volume of 1958, gives some background on the six known specimens. However, I would like to go further, if possible, and find out how and when the so-called original owners, namely: Parmelee, Stickney, Bushnell, Davis and Chapman acquired their pieces. It is known that the Mint acquired its specimen prior to 1842. I plan to check old New York City records to see if there was anything published about Brasher issuing these coins.

Perhaps you can throw some light on the Brand specimens, since I believe you were close to B.G. Johnson who handled the Brand collection. The doubloon at Yale University, according to Buttrey, is from the Brand collection and apparently was obtained from Johnson. Breen listed a Brasher Doubloon in a Mid-west collection as formerly

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being owned by Brand. The doubloon acquired by the Capitol Coin Company several months ago came from the Brand estate. Therefore, are these last two pieces the same coin? If so, then Brand must have had two specimens. If they are different coins, then Brand had three specimens and a seventh specimen has been uncovered. I have not seen the file on the "Brasher" owned by Capitol Coin Company, but Jack Friedberg is checking this for me.

Any assistance or information you can give me on Brasher personally, and his doubloons, will be greatly appreciated. If you are coming to New York soon, perhaps we can get together and discuss the subject.

Sincerely,

VERNON L. BROWN

June 3, 1964

Mr. Vernon Brown
Coin and Currency Institute
393 Seventh Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10001

Dear Vernon:

I enjoyed reading your fine article on the Brasher Doubloon and am very pleased at the way you handled some of the very difficult speculations. It is an effective piece of research and writing.

Would you be nice enough to send me an additional copy of the appropriate pages of The Numismatist. Brad will send you extras if you wish.

In referring to the character who is doing research on the Spanish Doubloon, I wanted to be sure you were referring to me. If not, I wanted to know who else might be working on the subject.

My kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc.
Book Publishers
393 SEVENTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001
WIsconsin 7-0370

June 8, 1964

Dear Eric:

Thanks for the nice comments pertaining to my article on "The Brasher Doubloon". I am asking Brad to send me some reprints and will forward one to you as soon as I receive them. I was disappointed in that Brad did not use the photograph showing Brasher's house on Cherry Street.

I was definitely referring to you as the "fellow numismatist" who is doing research on the half doubloon and Lima doubloon. The discussion of these coins was omitted in accordance with a suggestion in one of your letters. I believe that John Ford and Don Taxey have assembled some information on the Brasher pieces but I don't know what it is or how they plan to use it.

Hope to see you in New York soon.

Sincerely yours,

Vernon L. Brown

June 12, 1964

In the W. E. Woodward coin sale held in Boston on February 1, 1887 with respect to Lot No. 807 there is the following statement:

> "Within a few months the Boston Transcript has published an account of the Brashers, a family famous in the latter part of the last century as goldsmiths in New York."

Catalogues for coin sales were usually sent out about 45 days before the sale. This comment was therefore written, we must assume, in December of 1886. The article therefore should have appeared between May and November of 1886.

I already asked a person to look for this article in the Boston Transcript and they said they could not find it. I do not know if they missed the article or if it really was not there. The cataloguer could have meant another newspaper although I am advised that the Boston Transcript did publish genealogical matters as a normal feature but am not sure.

There is a file of the Boston Transcript in Harvard and it would be wonderful if this item could be found.

It could, of course, be earlier than May, 1886 if the cataloguer lost track of time.

Daily Globe
The Boston/~~Post~~ is on microfilm.

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

June 12, 1964

In the W. E. Woodward coin sale held in Boston on February 1, 1887 with respect to Lot No. 807 there is the following statement:

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There is a file of the Boston Transcript in Harvard (not on microfilm) and it would be wonderful if this item could be found.

It could, of course, be earlier than May, 1886 if the cataloguer lost track of time.

Daily Globe
The Boston/~~Xxxx~~ is on microfilm. of the other newspaper has to be checked.

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

August 6, 1964

Mr. Robert W. Julian
1003 Riverside Drive
Logansport, Indiana

Dear Mr. Julian:

I noticed your article in The Numismatist with respect to the alleged Brasher assays.

I am enclosing herewith a photocopy of the article in A.J.N. which has been quoted and requoted, and the source of which I have looked for, for years. I have never been able to find the quotation which is given and wonder if you have any thoughts.

I have not checked the Report of the Secretary of State (Jefferson) to the House of Representatives, on weights, measures, and coins, but it is certainly not in Hamilton's 1791 report.

If you have any thoughts as to where this quotation can come from it will clear up a particularly difficult puzzle.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

1003 Riverside Drive
Logansport, Indiana
August 9, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman
c/o P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri (63178)

Dear Mr. Newman:

The quotation in the AJN is from American State Papers, Finance, Vol. I, page 366. Since I had never seen this reference in its entirety, I was unaware that the two were connected until you sent me the photostat. There is most certainly an error here as the Secretary of the Treasury (Hamilton) could have ordered only the 1790 assay I spoke of in the Numismatist letter; Jefferson, as the Secretary of State, would have ordered the other in compliance of the 1792 Mint Law. The State Department, in the early years, was in charge of the mint. The inferences drawn from this note by the AJN editor are, in my opinion, absurd, as assigning a note to someone else proves exactly nothing about one's financial standing.

I have worked almost entirely from American source material with the occasional exception of an English printed work but the latter have proved to be of little consequence. I have contemplated having the Boulton material microfilmed. There is a lot of source material in this country that is untouched but finding it and having time to use it is another problem.

If I understand correctly, you have straightened out the names in the Digges letters; I used a microfilm copy of the Jefferson papers (itself in poor shape) and besides some of the letters were themselves faded. I will be waiting to hear from you about this (it can wait until Cleveland, though).

I plan on arriving at the ANA convention on the afternoon of the 20th but that is strictly tenative as I am bringing at least two others with me.

Looking forward to meeting you at the ANA, I remain

Sincerely yours

Robert W. Julian

Robert W. Julian

POTOMAC BOOKS, INC. Publishers 1518 K Street NW Washington D.C. 20005 Telephone 347-2620

January 10, 1966

Mr. Eric Newman
Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have heard from Mr. Walter Breen that you have some information on a Brasher who signed notes of the New York Water-Works from 1775-76. I am descended from the Brashers and am doing some work on the family. I have a great deal of data on 17th and 18th century Brashers which I am trying to sort out. The simularity of names is giving me a few problems.

I am particularly interested in Col. Abraham Brasher and Ephraim Brasher of the Doubloon fame. I have already, of course, the excellent biography of Ephraim which appeared in the Numismatic Magazine.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Colgate, Jr.,
Vice President

CCJr./gmr

January 13, 1966

Mr. Craig Colgate, Jr.
Potomac Books, Inc.
1518 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Colgate:

In your letter of January 10, 1966, you really fell into a trap. I was just waiting for someone, like you, to appear upon the scene.

My interest in Ephraim Brasher as to coinage produced a file one inch thick. For several years I have been about to write an article on the Spanish Brasher Doubloon but have never done so. This coin, as you may know, is different from the New York Brasher Doubloon. The reason I had not written this article is because I was never able to locate a published account of the Brasher family which, no doubt, you have located.

In W. E. Woodward's Coin Sale, held in Boston, February 1, 1887, there is stated with respect to Lot No. 807, the following:

> "Within a few months the Boston Transcript has published an account of the Brashers, a family famous in the latter part of the last century as goldsmiths in New York."

I have had several people independently look through the files of the Boston Transcript and could not find any such article. Maybe it wasn't the Boston Transcript. Maybe it was a few "years" instead of a few "months". Whatever the situation is, have you found that write-up, and, if so, could you send me a copy?

It might interest you to know that I have two sets of spoons made by Ephraim Brasher, one with the oval hallmark and one with the rectangular hallmark so on rare occasions we eat with your relative's products.

January 13, 1966

I also have done considerable work on forged counter-stamps with the "EB" initials.

Now, to get down to your request. I am enclosing a photocopy of the New York Water Works note with the Brasher name. I am not sure what the first part is, whether it is an "H", for Henry, or whether it is "Ab" for Abraham, and therefore will ask your opinion as to who this is.

I have been unable to find in the records of the City of New York an authorization for the signers of the March 5, 1776 paper money issue by the City. Apparently Brasher did not sign any other issue.

I will, naturally, be glad to cooperate with you in your research with the understanding that my interest is strictly in the numismatic field but there are so many areas of mutual help that it would be well if we could make progress together.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

POTOMAC BOOKS, INC. Publishers 1518 K Street NW Washington D.C. 20005 Telephone 347-2620

January 17, 1966

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
5450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 13, 1966, with its xerox copy of the note for the New York Water-Works, signed by Abraham Brasher - for I do believe this is Abraham Brasher (1734-1783). Abraham Brasher was a very prominent pre-Revolutionary figure in New York. Lead from the windows of his house was taken for bullets for the Continental Army and he fled with his family to Morristown, New Jersey during the British occupation of New York. He is buried in the Morristown churchyard. He was a colonel in the New York militia and member of the New York Legislature during the Revolution. His son, Abraham Brasher, Jr. (1777-1814) was a New York merchant and sea captain and commanded a privateer in the War of 1812. He fell sick in Norway and died in Drontheim. Unfortunately, I have never been able to establish the relationship between these Brashers and your Ephraim. I have a number of genealogical documents and records on the Brasher family, but your Ephraim does not emerge from them. As you know, the names Ephraim and Abraham were common and it is very easy to get the generations mixed-up. However, I think it is fairly clear that they were not brothers, though Ephraim may have been a cousin of either Abraham Senior, or Junior.

I was grateful to get your reference to the article in the Boston Transcript. I have never seen this and will do my best to run it down. If I get it, I will send you a copy, but I doubt that the search will be easy, since as you suggest, there may be an error in the reference. Incidentally, several years ago, I gave to the Yale Library, Abraham Brasher's pass which entitled him to pass freely through the Continental lines. I am not certain, but I believe that Brasher signed his pass. This would enable you to compare signatures and prove conclusively that your Water-Works note was indeed signed by him, but in my mind there is little doubt.

I will keep in touch with you and let you know if I get anything that will be of use to you. I am glad that you are working on the problem as I believe that Ephraim played a sufficiently important role in our early artistic and financial life, that he deserves to be better known to history.

Thanks again for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Craig Colgate, Jr.

CCJr./gmr

Assistant Directors
JOHN J. CONNOLLY
FRANCIS X. MOLONEY

Chief Librarian for Home Reading and Community Services
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PHILIP J. MCNIFF, *Director*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Boston, Massachusetts 02117

1 February 1966

Mr. Craig Colgate, Jr.
Vice President
Potomac Books Inc., Publishers
1518 "K" Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Colgate:

In reply to your inquiry of 17 January 1966 the report of Mr. Edwin G. Sanford of the History Department is given below.

Ephraim Brasher, the producer of the "Brasher Doubloon," was undoubtedly Ephraim[4] Brasier, Jr., the son of Ephraim[3] and Catherine (Van Kauren) Brasier, Sr., who was baptized on 18 April 1744. The Brasier or Brasher family was descended from Henry[1] Brasier who was a resident of Gravesend, Long Island, as early as 1643. He appears to have been a resident of the Colony of New Amsterdam as early as 1637, and he may have lived in New England prior to 1637. Henry[1] Brasier was a member of the Dutch Church in New York, and died in 1691. His son, Abraham[2] Brasier (1668-after 1710), was one of the leading followers of Jacob Leisler for which he was later pardoned by the King. His grandson, Ephraim[3] Brasier, Sr., was baptized on 2 June 1710, and presumably died about 1756, assuming that the Catherine Brasier who was licensed to marry an Albert Ryckman on 3 May 1756 was his widow.

Ephraim[4] Brasier, Jr., married (1) Ann Gilbert (marriage bond dated 8 November 1766), and (2) on 25 November 1797 Mary Austin (Richard H. Greene, "Genealogy of the Family of Brasier, Brasher, Breser, Bresart, Bradejor," The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record (New York, 1896), 27:40-41, and Names of Persons for Whom Marriage Licenses were Issued by the Secretary of the Province of New York, Previous to 1784 (Albany, N. Y., 1860), p. 42). According to Francis B. Heitman, Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April, 1775, to December, 1783. New Revised, and Enlarged edition (Washington, D. C., 1914), p. 118), Ephraim Brasher of New York was credited with service as a lieutenant in the New York Militia in 1776. We

also find the following references which probably apply to this man. Lieutenant Ephraim Brasher served in Colonel John Lasher's Regiment of New York Militia (no date) (James A. Roberts, New York in the Revolution as Colony and State. Second edition (Albany, N. Y., 1898), p. 218). Berthold Fernow, editor, Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York (Albany, N. Y., 1887), Volume XV; State Archives, Volume I, p. 285, notes that a Lieutenant Ephraim Brasher of the Rhinebeck Precinct was appointed on 18 August 1778 as a member of Colonel Zephaniah Platt's Regiment of "Associated Exempts," and, also, p. 542, that a Lieutenant Ephraim Brasher served in New York in 1775 or 1776 (or both) "In the Militia and Six Months." The Militia service was in either the First or Second New York Volunteer Regiment, and, presumably, the "Six Months" service was a levy from the Militia to serve with the Continental troops in the New York area.

We found only one reference to Ephraim Brasher in the genealogical columns of the Boston Evening Transcript. The column for Monday, 12 April 1920, Q 8072, contained a query asking for "any Brasher data." On Monday, 3 May 1920, A 8072, an answer to the above was printed and among the various Brashers mentioned was the note that "Ephraim Brasher, a silversmith, then lived [in 1790] with one male [child ?] over sixteen [years of age] in Montgomery Ward, New York city." Our reading of the 1790 census of New York does not appear to be in agreement with the above. We find that the family of Ephraim Brasher of "New York City, Montgomery Ward" presumably consisted of himself, his wife, his daughter, and four slaves (Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790 (Washington, D. C., 1908), p. 123). R. S. Yeoman's A Guide Book of United States Coins. 18th Revised edition (Racine, Wis., 1964), p. 40, states that Ephraim Brasher, "a well-known goldsmith and jeweler," was the "next door neighbor of George Washington, in New York."

We also find that Ephraim Brasher was elected a "Sachem" of the Society of the Sons of Saint Tammany of New York in May 1790 (The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, vol. 27, no. 1 (1903), p. 41). He died in

New York about November 1810, aged 67 years (Columbian Centinel of Boston, of 21 November 1810, p. 2, col. 2).

May we suggest that you might obtain additional information about Ephraim Brasher by writing to the New York Public Library, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, New York (10018) or to the New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, New York (10024).

Very truly yours,

B Joseph O'Neill

Coordinator of
General Reference Services

POTOMAC BOOKS, INC. Publishers · 1518 K Street NW · Washington D.C. 20005 Telephone 347-2620

February 7, 1966

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
5450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

I wrote the Boston Public Library to see if I could track down the reference to Ephraim Brasher allegedly the Boston Transcript. I received the enclosed detailed reply which adds little to what we already know and by implication seems to say that the reference to the Boston Transcript must be in error.

Do stop off and see me sometime if you are ever in Washington.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Colgate, Jr.,
Vice President

CCJr./gmr

Enclosure

July 22, 1966

Dr. Sarah Freeman
John Work Garrett Library
Evergreen House
4545 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Sally:

I just saw the article in COIN AGE showing you at work and showing some of the gems of the collection. I thought the photographs were unusually nice and well reproduced (except for the one which was reversed).

I am very much interested in knowing whether you have the negatives covering these photographs or whether someone else has. I particularly want the pair of negatives containing the three Brasher Doubloons unless each is on a separate negative, in which case I would like to borrow allof them. Would you let me know what this situation is as I would like to try to make some special enlargements.

This summer while my wife was buying antiques in Ireland and England I did a reasonable amount of coin research and will in due course be writing it up.

There certainly are a lot of capable women in the numismatic field and I wonder if you know Joan Martin of the British Museum Coin Department and Mrs. Robertson of the Glasgow Museum.

I will tell you one interesting story I learned in Europe. A woman by the name of Novella D'Andrea, who was a teacher at the University of Bologna in the 14th century, was so attractive that the students could not keep their minds on their work and the school ordered her to conduct her classes from behind a screen. I hope this story is not a bologna.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that our paths will cross in the not too distant future.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Miami, Florida
October 18, 1967

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS (5);
ARMED ROBBERY OF JEWELRY,
CASH, AND RARE COINS OF
UNDETERMINED VALUE,
COCONUT GROVE, MIAMI, FLORIDA,
OCTOBER 5, 1967;
MR. AND MRS. WILLIS H. DU PONT-
VICTIMS

Shortly after midnight, October 5, 1967, five armed, masked males entered the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Willis H. du Pont, 3500 St. Gaudens Road, Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida, and at gunpoint, took approximately $4,000 in cash, $1,000 of which was in loose silver dollars, approximately $50,000 in jewelry, being thirty pieces of women's jewelry, consisting of rings, earrings, and bracelets and fifteen pieces of men's jewelry, consisting of watches, studs and cufflinks, and an extensive coin collection maintained in a concealed safe.

This coin collection consisted of (1) a portion of the Mikhailovitch Collection of Russian Coins and Medals, valued by du Pont at about $1,000,000; (2) an almost complete collection of U.S. regular issues, silver and gold, of commemorative gold, and of territorial gold, valued by du Pont at approximately $500,000; (3) a collection of rare, scarce, and common foreign coins of approximately 138 different foreign countries, cities, and municipalities, valued by du Pont at approximately $50,000; and (4) a small collection of Chinese silver, copper, and brass coins of undetermined value.

RUSSIAN COINS

The portion of the Mikhailovitch Collection taken, consisted of 257 items being, with four exceptions, gold and platinum coins and medals. These items made up approximately thirty-seven per cent of the total 712 gold and platinum items in the entire Mikhailovitch Collection. These coins

are mainly gold and platinum rubles, gold ducats, gold imperials and the medals are commemorative gold. Two of these coins are unique, being the only ones known, namely:

1908 gold 10 rubles
1840 platinum 3 rubles

The third coin, 1882 gold 3 rubles piece, in proof condition is one of the three known out of six originally struck.

UNITED STATES COINS

This collection totals about 4,400 coins, being about 3,100 coins of silver, copper, and bronze, and about 1,300 gold coins.

Silver and Other Metals

This portion of the collection, including half-cents through silver dollars and trade dollars, includes at least one copy of every coin, with about 100 exceptions, of all coins listed in R. S. Yeoman's 1968 edition of "Guide Book of United States Coins", commonly known as the "Red Book". Some of the more rare or more valuable coins in the category are as follows:

Half-Cents 1793-1857

Date	Condition
1796 with Pole	EF.

Flying Eagle Cents 1856-1858

Complete set of 12

Two-Cent Pieces 1864-1873 (bronze)

Complete set

Three-Cent Pieces

Complete set of nickel three-cent pieces, 1865-1889.

Complete set of silver three-cent pieces, 1851-1873, most of which are in proof condition.

Nickel Five-Cent Pieces

Date	Condition
1877	Proof

Dimes 1796-to date

1796	F.
1797 13 stars	E.F.
1859 obverse 1859, reverse 1860	Proof

Twenty-Cent Pieces 1875-1878

Complete set including:

1876 C.C.	Unc.

Quarter-Dollars 1796-to date

1796	Unc.
1827 restrike	Proof
1866 one known	Proof
1901 S	Unc.
1913 S	Unc.
1918 S over 7	Unc.

Half-Dollars 1794-to date

1838 O	Unc.
1866 unique	Proof

Silver-Dollars 1794-1935

1794	G.
1795 two leaves	Unc.
1797 9 stars left, 7 right, small letters	Unc.
1804 type 1, original (Stickney specimen)	
1804 type 2, restrike	Proof
1839 obverse, reeded edge	
1866 no motto, two known	
1895	Proof

Trade Dollars

1884 copper-silver plated

Gold Coins

This portion of the collection, representing less than thirty per cent of the United States collection, numerically represents about eighty per cent of the value of the entire United States collection. This section contains at least one copy of each of the listed coins, with about sixty exceptions, of all coins listed under Gold Regular Issue, under Commemorative Gold, and under Private or Territorial Gold in R. S. Yeoman's 1968 edition of the "Red Book". Some of the more rare or more valuable coins of this group are as follows:

Gold Dollars 1849-1889

Date	Condition
1875	Proof

Quarter-Eagles ($2.50 Gold Pieces) 1796-1929

1848 CAL	F.
1854 S	V.F.
1862 over 1	E.F.
1863	Proof

Three-Dollar Gold Piece 1854-1889

Complete set, with exception of 1870 S unique, including:

1875	Proof
1876	Proof

Four-Dollar Gold or "Stella" 1879-1880

Complete set of these four pattern coins in proof condition.

Half-Eagles ($5.00 Gold Pieces)
1797-1929

1795 Heraldic Eagle	Unc.
1815	Unc.
1826	Unc.
1827	Unc.
1828	Unc.
1829 small date	Unc.
1854 S	E.F.

Eagles ($10.00 Gold Pieces)
1795-1933

Almost complete set, including:

1907 wire edge	Unc.
1907 rolled edge	Unc.

Double Eagles ($20.00 Gold Pieces)
1849-1933

Almost complete set, including:

1861 S A.C. Paquet Rev.	F.
1883	Proof
1884	Proof
1885	Proof
1886	Proof
1887	Proof
1890	Proof
1895	Proof
1905	Proof
1906	Proof

Commemorative Gold

Includes complete set of:

Grant Memorial Gold Dollars
Lewis & Clark Exposition Gold Dollars
Louisiana Purchase Exposition Gold Dollars
Mc Kinley Memorial Gold Dollars
Panama-Pacific Exposition
- Gold Dollar
- Quarter Eagle
- $50.00 Round
- $50.00 Octagonal

Commemorative Gold (cont.)

Philadelphia Sesquicentenial Quarter Eagle

Private or Territorial Gold Coins

Templeton Reid Georgia 1930

Complete set including:

(No date) Ten Dollars Unc.

Christopher Bechtler 1830-1852

Almost complete set with four exceptions.

August Bechtler 1842-1852

Complete set including:

5 Dollars Carolina, 141 gr. 20 carats, restrike, proof condition.

Norris, Grieg & Norris 1849

1849 Half Eagle--plain edge
1849 Half Eagle--reeded edge
1850 Half Eagle--(unique)Stockton

Moffat & Co. 1849-1853

Complete set of $5.00 and $10.00 Gold Pieces

Agustus Humbert

1851 almost complete set.

United States Assay Office of Gold

1852 complete set.

U.S. Assay - Moffat

1853 20 D.

Cincinnati Mining & Trading Co.

1849 10 Dollars - plain edge

1849 10 Dollars - milled edge

Massachusetts & California Co.

1849 5 D.	Unc.
1849 5 D.	V.F.

Miner's Bank 1849

1849 10 D.	F.

J. S. Ormsby 1849

1849 5 Dolls.	Unc.
1849 10 Dolls.	G.

Pacific Company 1849

1849 1 Dollar	F.
1849 5 Dollars	Unc.
1849 10 Dollars	F.

Dubosq & Company 1850

1850 Ten D.	F.
1850 Five D.	F.

Baldwin & Company 1850

1850 Five Dol.	F.
1850 Ten Dollars	F.
1851 Ten D.	F.
1851 Twenty D	V.F.

Schultz & Company 1851

1851 Five D	Unc.

Dunbar & Company 1851

1851 Five D	Unc.

Wass, Molitor & Company 1852-1855

Complete Set.

Kellogg & Company 1854-1855

1854 Twenty D short arrow heads — F.

1854 Twenty D long arrow heads — F.

1855 Twenty D — F.

1855 Fifty Dolls. — Unc.

California Small Donomination Gold Pieces

25¢	Octagonal	numerous
25¢	Round	numerous
50¢	Octagonal	numerous
50¢	Round	numerous
$1	Octagonal	numerous
$1	Round	numerous

Oregon Exchange Company 1849

1849 5 D — G.
1849 Ten D — V.F.

Mormon Gold Pieces 1849-1860

Complete set.

Colorado Gold Pieces 1860-1861

Complete set.

John Parsons & Company 1861

(1861) Undated 2½ D. — F.
(1861) Undated Five D. — F.

J. J. Conway & Company 1861

(1861) Undated 2½ Dolls. — E.F.

J. J. Conway & Company 1861 (cont.)

(1861) Undated Five Dollars Unc.

Above set in Goldine (one of 200 sets).

(1861) Undated 2½ Dollars
(1861) Undated 5 Dollars
(1861) Undated 10 Dollars

(This set above marked Number 172 and mounted in in custom plastic case.)

Miscellaneous Coins & Tokens

Coins and Tokens of the English-American Colonies

Massachusetts

Oak Tree Shilling	F.
Oak Tree Twopence	G.
Pine Tree Shilling	F.
Pine Tree Sixpence	F.
Pine Tree Threepence	F.

Coinage of William Wood

1722 Penny, Utile Dulci Rosa Americana	F.

Tokens and Pattern Coins

Brasher's Doubloons

1787 Doubloon, punch on wing, gold	F.

FOREIGN COINS

These coins are common, scarce, and rare coins, of some vintage from 138 different foreign countries, cities, and municipalities throughout the world, which have been accumulated over the years during the course of travel by various members of the du Pont family and their friends.

While there are some valuable specimens in the collection, they are not considered outstanding or extremely valuable. Mr. du Pont has advised that these approximately 2,600 coins would have an estimated total value of about $50,000.

CHINESE COINS

These approximately 95 coins constitute a separate collection given as a gift to Mr. Lammot du Pont, father of Willis H. du Pont, by a relative who had spent some time in China. They consist of silver, copper, and brass coins, being both of regular issue and of memorial type. They were maintained in a separate five drawer cabinet on display in du Pont's den and their value has not been estimated at this time.

Dec 1967

408

The Brasher Doubloon weights ? and the lack of any marking of denom give rise to the sound conclusion that they are sample pieces of a copper coinage for New York (Brasher + Bailey 1787 coining franchise petition). They could have been given to the important legislature personnel like the 1792 Washington.

If this is true the Spanish doubloon is merely a misguided attempt to cash in on the doubloon idea and is a bald phoney by virtue of being a doubloon

Taxay feels the regular doubloons are not doubloons at all they are improvements in the coin design of the 1st Republican coppers.

JOHN WORK GARRETT LIBRARY OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

ELIZABETH BAER, *Librarian*
SARAH E. FREEMAN, *Curator, Numismatics*



EVERGREEN HOUSE

4545 NORTH CHARLES STREET
BALTIMORE 10, MARYLAND

December 1, 1967

Margo Russell
Coin World
Sidney News Building
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Mrs. Russell:

Well after a couple of hours of shovelling snow I made it in to the office this morning. I was not quite certain what you said you were sending on to me - that may arrive the first of the week - or whether it would require an answer.

However, I looked up an article on the Brasher pieces, written by Breen, and published in the Centennial volume of the American Numismatic Society. He describes and gives the pedigree for all known Brasher pieces, and there are nine items. The first five are the "New York doubloons" with cm. on wing, now in Smithsonian, "Mid-west collection," Yale, JHU, and Boyd. No. 6 is JHU with cm. on breast.

No. 7 with cm. on wing is generally known as the half doubloon. It is on a thin flan, and consequently lighter. The dies are identical, and it is the same diameter, if measured just to the beaded circle. The outer part has been cut down, so that most of the legend is missing - just the bottom of most letters, visible. It was said at that time (1950) to be in a private collection, ex several owners. I would bet a dollar to the hole in a doughnut that this is the Dupont piece. It is to all intents a 7th doubloon, though it actually isn't, by weight and over all size. Yale is full size and the legend is completely clear, so there can be no confusion. The date on the so-called half, for example, is completely missing.

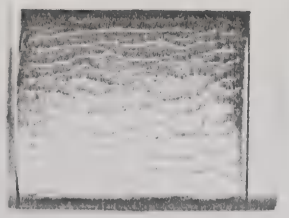
Lest you wonder, nos. 8 and 9 in the list are the Lima type pieces. I presume it is the "Mid-West collection" piece that has since changed hands.

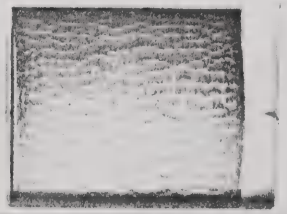
I have also noticed that the countermarks on the Yale and Dupont (?) pieces are different in that Yale is perfectly horizontal, and the other slants noticeably from left up to right.

Hope this may help to solve your mystery.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Elizabeth Freeman





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WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. McFALL
PRESIDENT

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DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LT = International Letter Telegram

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CTA039 AF188

1967 DEC 4 PM 1 32

A MZB168 PD=MIAMI FLO 4 1237P EST=

=MARGO RUSSELL, EDITOR COIN WORLD=

SIDNEY NEWS BLDG SIDNEY OHIO=

YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO PUBLISH PEDIGREE OF MY BRASHER DOUBLOON=

WILLIS H DUPONT=

TELEPHONE NO. 2-4141
TELEPHONE TO DR
1421

WU1201(R2-65) THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

HAROLD GRAY
LAWYER

December 6, 1967

Margo Russell,
Editor, Coin World,
Sidney News Building,
Sidney, Ohio.

Dear Miss Russell:

In reply to your latest telegram to Mr. Willis H. du Pont regarding his Brasher Doubloon, this coin was acquired by the late Lammot du Pont, the father of Willis H. du Pont, in 1933 from B. Max Mehl from the Waldo Newcomer & Jackman Collections.

Mr. du Pont's Brasher Doubloon is a 1787, Radiant Sun and Mountains on the Obverse. The reverse is the eagle, date and the initials E.B. His coin has a punch on the wing.

This is all the information available from Mr. du Pont's records.

Very truly yours,

Harold Gray

Harold Gray

HG:nlj

POST OFFICE BOX 347 · COCONUT GROVE STATION · MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES
ANN ARBOR

18 March 1968

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

The last I heard the Brasher Doubloon belonged to the insurance company, but Yale was feeling an obligation to buy it back to encourage alumni who might not otherwise donate such fancy stuff. If you want me to pursue it further, I can contact the curator and the librarian for you.

Please let me know.

Yours,

TVB

T. V. Buttrey
Associate Chairman

TVB:bl

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 4, 1969

Mr. Val Clain-Stefanelli
Room A-4022
Smithsonian Institute
Washington, D. C.

Dear Val:

There is returned herewith the two Brasher Doubloon slides which you were kind enough to lend for my talk at the Washington Numismatic Seminar. We have had duplicates made of them and appreciate your cooperation.

Would it be possible for you to obtain for us, in due course, an enlargement of the negative which, no doubt, you have of the 1853 $20 U.S.Assay Office 900 fine piece? If you wish to lend us the negatives, we would be glad to have the enlargements made.

The talk which you gave before the seminar was fascinating to me, as I expressed to you at the time. I know that you and Lisa did more than your part in making the seminar a success and the attendance, definitely, indicated the enthusiasm for the project.

Kindest personal regards to both of you.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/sth

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 4, 1968

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Kindest personal regards to both of you.

Sincerely yours,

Eric

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/s tb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

July 24, 1968

Mr. Willis H.DuPont
3500 St.Gaudens Road
Miami, Florida 33133

Dear Mr.DuPont:

We have been doing research on the subject of the Brasher Doubloon for a number of years and gave a program on March 23, 1968 at the Smithsonian Institution with emphasis on that subject. We need some additional data to complete our work for eventual publication.

Now that your Brasher Doubloon has been recovered, we would be appreciative if you could send us an enlarged photograph of its two faces and also its accurate weight. Naturally, if there is any cost involved we will gladly reimburse you. Perhaps you already have fine photographs.

As you may know, the writer, in 1962, published with Kenneth E. Bressett, a book entitled "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar". This book included pictures of all 1804 dollars including the two 1804 dollars which were in your collection at the time it was stolen; (see pages 120 and 134). We merely mention this book as an example of the sincerity of our work.

We realize the extent of the ordeal involving your robbery and the recovery problems and sincerely hope that you will cooperate with us as to our request as the scientific and cultural work in numismatics should go on in spite of the coin crime wave.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN
atb

Baymere
3500 St. Gaudens Road
Coconut Grove, Florida 33133

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Post Office Box 347
Coconut Grove Station
Miami, Florida, 33133

November 7, 1968

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society,
6450 Cecil Avenue,
St. Louis 5, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I see no reason why I will not be able to ultimately supply you with a photograph of my Brasher Doubloon.

However, at the present time, it is in the custody of the Federal Marshal in connection with a pending criminal trial involving federal charges against the person from whose possession they recovered the coin.

Therefore, at such time as I am able to do so, I will be most happy to comply with your request. I have no idea when this might be possible inasmuch as the trial of the case in question has been set over until early 1969.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Willis H. du Pont

WHduP:nlj

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 18, 1969

Mr. Lee Hewitt
7320 Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60648

Dear Lee:

Talking with you was wonderfully refreshing. Naturally, I am following up as I said I would.

You indicated you would give me the exact citation of the article in COIN WORLD concerning the so-called half Brasher Doubloon. You indicated you had furnished the information for this article in the Spring of this year.

You told me that James L. Doak saw this half Brasher Doubloon in the Ball Estate, many years ago, and that it had a heavy test cut near the outer edge. You told me that after Frank Smith bought it from the Ball Estate, James L. Doak saw it, again, and it had been circumsized, reducing its diameter substantially so that the test cut was eliminated.

Who was the competitor of Smith in buying the piece? Was it Doak?

After speaking to you, I talked to Vern Sheldon and Vern will give us his cooperation in asking Mr. Doak to confirm the details on the matter.

It is of substantial importance that this be documented and any other thoughts you have on the matter please communicate them to us. You indicated you would have no difficulty in locating the citation to forward to us.

May I also have James L. Doak's address.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb

Lee Hewitt Aug 1969

Frank Smith

Chem

Ball Estate

May Coin World

1969

Drop note to Hewitt

James L. Doak saw

½ Brash doubloon bust

a cut in it and saw

it cut down after Smith

MEMO FROM

LEE F. HEWITT

Aug 20 1969

Dear Eric

Just arrived back at plant this morning. Stopped to see friends near Buffalo for a day.

The doubloon story is on page 11 of May 8, 1968 "Coin World". It has all the details.

Jim Doak lives in Chicago and uses a P.O. Box for mail. Not having the NSM list, I can't reach over and get it. However, you can obtain from ANA as he is a member. He only comes to coin club about once a year so I may or may not see him at Sept meeting

yours

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 25, 1969

Mr.James L. Doak
4720 N. Racine Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Mr. Doak:

At the A.N.A. Convention, in Philadelphia, Lee Hewitt was talking about your experience with the Brasher Doubloon and suggested that you be contacted to confirm, personally, what you saw in the early 1950's.

As you know, Lee Hewitt wrote up the matter in the May 8, 1968 COIN WORLD and I think it is important, in the coin research we conduct, to have your verification.

Would you be nice enough to answer the questions in this letter, either in a seperate letter, or on the enclosed duplicate.

1. Do you remember the name of the bank which was handling the Ball Estate, in Muncie, Indiana, and offered you the Brasher Doubloon at $2,000?

2. Was the indentation in the edge of the Brasher Doubloon a planchet crack, or was it a test cut, or some other deliberate cut?

3. Was Frank Smith the dealer in front of whom you mentioned the coin's availability when you were talking to Ben Green and Morris Thacker?

4. Did you see the coin,after Frank Smith bought it from the estate,with the edge damage and did you see the coin in Frank Smith's possession after it had been cut down circumferentially to remove the defect?

5. Could you give a little closer date as to when this all happened than the early part of the 1950's?

6. Are Lee Hewitt's facts correct as stated in the article?

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

Mr. James L. Doak

August 25, 1969

We believe the coin now resides in the Smithsonian Institution.

To refresh your memory there is enclosed a photocopy of the COIN WORLD article, by Lee.

Any other information on the matter which you care to mention would be most appreciated.

If you use the duplicate copy of this letter for answering, please sign your name on the sheet, along with the date.

Vernon Sheldon knows me, very well, and either he or Lee will assure you of the sincerity of the research being conducted.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb



POST CARD

Space for Address Only

Mr. Eric P. Newman

6450 Cecil Avenue

St. Louis, Missouri

63105

August 30, 1969.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Your letter received to-day. Odd, just when I am trying to uncover information on the Brasher token. The conversation between Mr. Green Mancel Roy, Morris Thacker and myself was on a Sunday, not Sat. F.S. was across the isle, pretending to look at items the table, but in my opinion, ~~but~~ with an ear open to our conversation.

Will try to give you a more complete reply in the next two weeks.

JAMES L. DOAK

P. O Box 913 Chicago 90, Illinois

U. S. Fractional Currency ★ Gold, Silver & Copper Coins

LO HAN TEMPLE — STREETS OF SHANGHAI
A CENTURY OF PROGRESS 1934
An imperial cloisonne altar set of the Ching dynasty.
See Souvenir Booklet for further details.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 5, 1969

Mr. James L. Doak
4720 N. Racine Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Mr. Doak:

Thank you for your card of August 30, 1969 with respect to the Brasher Doubloon matter. It was very interesting that you were trying to uncover information on the subject, just as I am.

If you would like to write up the matter concerning it, we will be delighted to furnish you with such detail on the subject as we have in our files or working with you in any other way to bring the matter out in the open.

We look forward to hearing from you further as you indicated you could give a more complete report in the next two weeks.

Do you have a telephone number so that I might be in a position to call you up and talk to you about it?

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 5, 1969

Mr. James L. Doak
4720 N. Racine Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Mr. Doak:

Thank you for your card of August 30, 1969 with respect to the Brasher Doubloon matter. It was very interesting that you were trying to uncover information on the subject, just as I am.

If you would like to write up the matter concerning it, we will be delighted to furnish you with such detail on the subject as we have in our files or working with you in any other way to bring the matter out in the open.

We look forward to hearing from you further as you indicated you could give a more complete report in the next two weeks.

Do you have a telephone number so that I might be in a position to call you up and talk to you about it?

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 5, 1970

MEMORANDUM

Today Emery May Norweb told me, over the telephone, that about three years ago John Ford had offered her for sale the group of 1880 bars which were subsequently auctioned at Glendenning's in the winter of 1969. She told me she had warned Spink not to put them in that auction. She also told me that Spink had a reserve on the items and that this was the wrong thing to do. She expressed her opinion that there was going to be a lot of trouble over these bars as the situation had gone much too far.

I asked her if she had given her Brasher Doubloon to ANS and she confirmed that.

I told her that I had heard from Margo Russell that the same coin was in the DuPont collection. She told me DuPont never showed his coin to anyone or furnished pictures and that she had been offered the same coin which DuPont bought. She said it was not a New York Brasher but an EB counterstamp on some Spanish coin.

She said there was a group of four gold pieces offered to her but that none of them had the oval EB counterstamp with a period between the letters. She told me there were several EB counterstamps which had nothing to do with Ephraim Brasher. I told her I would advise Margo Russell that Margo's information was probably not accurate.

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ANS 1/10/70

Curator of Yale Vermi Collection introduced to me by Prof Dorsolot. I asked Curator if they received Ethan Brashers doubloon & he said that they did but that a financial loss was suffered in spite of the insurance. I told them I presumed this involved certain recovery costs by the so between. He invited me to come to visit any time.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 12, 1970

Mr. Willis H. du Pont
Post Office Box 347
Coconut Grove Station
Miami, Florida 33133

Dear Mr. du Pont:

With respect to your Brasher Doubloon, you will recall our request for a photograph well over a year ago. In your kind letter of November 7, 1968 you indicated that you would be most pleased to comply and I am enclosing a copy of that letter.

The American Numismatic Society was fortunate to obtain a Brasher Doubloon as a gift from Mrs. Henry Norweb, of Cleveland, Ohio, and when I examined the coin, in New York last week, it occurred to me that I should follow up with respect to a picture of yours.

I will appreciate your cooperation, very much, and continue to hope that you will recover the balance of your lovely collection.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

bc
Mrs. Henry Norweb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 12, 1970

Mrs. Henry Norweb
9511 Lake Shore Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Emery May:

On checking my correspondence with Mr. du Pont, I find that I ought to write him again and have done so. Copies are enclosed.

This will give you address detail in the event you find an opportunity to make a personal contact.

It was a pleasure to see you and General Lee, in New York, as always, and I hope you have a very pleasant holiday in Florida.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

Willis H. du Pont
Post Office Box 347
Coconut Grove Station
Miami, Florida 33133

February 25, 1970

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
6450 Cecil Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have just returned to my desk and I have your letter of January 12, 1970, at hand.

You will recall that I wrote to you on November 7, 1968, regarding the fact that my Brasher Doubloon was in official custody. The situation has not changed and since the case is on an appeal I will not be able to obtain possession of same until all appeals have been exhausted. Therefore, at some future date, I shall be pleased to comply with your request but I am unable to do so at this time.

Very truly yours,

Willis H. du Pont

WHduP:nlj

March 3, 1970

Mrs. R. Henry Norweb

Thought you would be interested in the enclosed.

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

SUPERIOR STAMP AND COIN CO., INC.

517 W. 7th STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90014
(213) 627-2621

INVOICE NO. № 8065

SOLD TO
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY
6450 CECIL AVE.
ST. LOUIS, MO

INVOICE DATE 3-11-71

SHIPPED TO

OUR ORDER NO.	YOUR ORDER NO.	SALESMAN	TERMS	SHIPPED VIA	PPD. OR COLL.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
	LOT #1021 ESTIMATED VALUE.....		$600.00
	FOR INSPECTION PURPOSES.... TO BE RETURNED TO US WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS LOT.		
	EB Brasher stamp foreign on 1750		

PRINTED BY GRAYARC CO., INC., BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11232

MEMO

1971

From

JERRY COHEN 5/26

To E. Newman

Dear Eric

Can you shed any light on a gold piece I have consigned to me .. 1757 R 6400 Bar with EB in oval and script B in circle .. - see photo enclosed - which island (?) used this combination ?? Thanks for any help -

Sincerely, Jerry

COIN GALLERY
344 NORTH BEVERLY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS CALIF. 90210
CRestview 1-4281

1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL
P.O. BOX 45132 — NORTHTOWN STATION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60645

20th MAR '73

DEAR ERIC:

JIM DOAK HAS MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WANTED TO WRITE DOWN THE STORY OF THE BRASHER HALF-DUBLOON FOR YOU, BUT JIM IS IN BAD SHAPE - JUST RECOVERING FROM A HEART ATTACK, COUPLE BROKEN RIBS, AND VERY BAD PALSEY.

HE CAN'T DO TOO MUCH HIMSELF AND I THOUGHT I COULD HELP OUT IF YOU REALLY WANTED THE STORY. JIM LIVES ONLY ABOUT A MILE FROM HERE AND I OFTEN TAKE HIM HOME FROM THE CLUB.

MOST OF US OLD-TIMERS KNOW PARTS OF THE STORY BUT JIM IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO KNOWS IT ALL. I WAS ACQUAINTED WITH OLD MAN SMITH, AND I DO KNOW THE OLD MAN WHO DID ALL HIS GOLD REPAIRING. HE IS STILL ALIVE - MUST BE CLOSE TO 80! STILL DOING GOOD WORK. MAYBE HE TRIMMED IT DOWN. IF YOU WISH, I'LL ASK HIM!

CORDIALLY

Harry

ANA 4343
LM 77

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 23, 1973

Mr. Harry X Boosel
P. O. Box 45132 - Northtown Station
Chicago, Illinois 60645

Dear Harry:

The Half Doubloon story is so interesting that I sincerely believe you should talk it over with Jim Doak and write it up for him and let him sign it. Naturally, if he could write it out himself that would be better but in view of his age and physical condition he might welcome your help.

It seems to me, as to the fellow who did the gold repairing for Smith, anything you find out there would be somewhat helpful but that is not as important as what Jim Doak actually remembers.

I look forward to hearing from you and I will give you any help necessary.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL
P.O. BOX 45132 — NORTHTOWN STATION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60645

4-16-73

ERIC P. NEWMAN
6450 CECIL AVE
ST LOUIS MO-63105

DEAR ERIC:

TALKED TO DOAK THIS WEEK - HE IS STILL NOT ABLE TO DICTATE - BUT HE DID GIVE ME THE LIST OF OWNERS PRIOR TO BALL - WHO OWNED THE CLIPPED DUBLOON -

PERHAPS YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THESE SALES OF THESE COLLECTIONS AND MAY FIND THE ITEM IN THERE -

OWNERS IN ORDER WERE:

E H R GREEN
F.C. BOYD
PROSKY
BALL - THEN HIS ESTATE WHICH SOLD IT TO OLD MAN SMITH.

I'VE ATTEMPTED TO SEE THE METAL WORKER, NELSON, BUT LAST 4 TIMES HIS OFFICE WAS CLOSED. (MAY BE DECEASED) WILL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW (APR 17).

WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED -

REGARDS

Harry

ANA 4343
LM 77

EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.
EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 400 WASHINGTON AVE. MAIL: P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63178

Copy

Harry Cone

4/21/73

Dear Ken —

I got back to work — [illegible] and I want to answer your 4/14/73 letter [illegible] first is that the Leif de Bloom was [illegible] for sale in 1971 — it was [illegible] by Edgar Adams & that time [illegible] was long before the Ball Estate — I think with [illegible] I presume if so please drop the matter as it [illegible]

[illegible] was no catalogue of the A&R Gun sales in 1931-41 [illegible] was part of the Boyd sales of [illegible] of colonial era

If you [illegible] from [illegible] let me know

Very glad to see your writings

Keep it up

Sincerely

Eric

HARRY X BOOSEL
P.O. BOX 45132 — NORTHTOWN STATION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60645

4-29-73

ERIC NEWMAN:

DEAR ERIC -

I WAS ABLE TO SEE MR. NELSON - (I SWEAR HE IS OVER 80 - BUT STILL WORKING - SLOWLY!)

I ASKED HIM IF HE REMEMBERED OLD MAN SMITH - HE DID - THEN I QUESTIONED HIM CLOSELY ON CUTTING DOWN A GOLD COIN - DREW HIM A CIRCLE WITH A CLIP OUT -



HE DEFINITELY STATED THAT IF HE HAD EVER CUT A GOLD COIN DOWN LIKE THAT, HE WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED - HE IS SURE HE DID NOT.

WILL PURSUE IT NO FURTHER, BUT IF DOAK WANTS TO DICTATE AND IS ABLE TO, I WILL HUMOR HIM.

REGARDS

Harry

ANA 4343
LM 77

3917 Euclid Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75205
May 25, 1974

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Educational Fdn.
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Kenneth Bressett, I am writing you concerning an inquiry that I made of him recently questioning his omission of the "So-called Brasher Half Doubloon" from the 1973 and later issues of Whitman's GUIDEBOOK OF UNITED STATES COINS due to the controversial nature of this coin. The Half Doubloon was listed every year from 1947 to 1972 (with a $6500 valuation from 1949 to 1954; and as Unique from 1955-56 & from 1958 to 1972). Mr. Bressett confirmed that many of the questions that I had concerning the origin, etc. of this piece were shared by other researchers such as yourself. His letter to me reflected the following thoughts on the subject:

> The first reported "Half Doubloon" has long been held to be a piece that was cut down from a full Doubloon that had been pierced.
>
> I have recently learned, however, that there is a specimen of the so-called Half Doubloon in the Smithsonian Institution which is reported to be thinner than a normal doubloon and of approximately half the weight.

Mr. Bressett suggested that I might contact V. Clain-Stefanelli (who was a proponent of the coins genuineness) and yourself (a disbeliever) in order to get both sides of the genuineness argument. I wrote Clain-Stefanelli before I corresponded with Bressett(although I have yet to have an answer), asking , in effect, for a defense of his piece (the Lilly coin).

I would assume that your objection to the Half Doubloon would center on its prior representation as a completely original variety of Brasher Doubloon rather than its proper description as an altered version (via cutting down) of this coin. Am I correct? I am of the opinion that the coin was cut down after rather than before the impression was struck into the planchet.

Ihave the following questions that might eventually enable me to prove my contention. Any comments concerning facts, opinions, speculations, or possible other sources of information that you might have or be familiar with on the following would be greatly appreciated:

1) How many Brasher Half Doubloons exist in your opinion? Bressett (in the part of his letter that I quoted) indicated that he knows of two: a) "discovery" coin that was pierced & cut down; and b) Lilly coin in Smithsonian. If you agree that these two exist, do you know the current location of the first piece and its previous ownership? Can you tell me the word-of-mouth trade story concerning the origin of this first piece: including why the coin was cut down, who ordered the cutting down (name of dealer, collector), and approximately what year was the cutting accomplished (I would like to know your opinion even if it is sheer speculation).

2) There is obviously a word-of-mouth mythology that has built up around this piece due to a certain amount of unorganized knowledge and a certain amount of dignity by time passage. In an effort to piece together how this myth was formed, I am trying to get some consensus of opinion of the following: Approximately what year did you first hear of the existence of <u>any</u> Brasher Half Doubloon? Was the "discovery coin" published? Was the first time you heard of the piece via an advertisement for sale of same (giving rise to $6500 valuation in Red Book for 1949-54)? Was the coin pictured in the ad? When did you first hear the term "Brasher Half Doubloon" and who may have coined or popularized it and in which era? I am only intersted in what you can recall from memory.

3) Is there any technical or physical way of proving whether a given cut down Brasher Doubloon was cut down before or after striking? If so, would this not tend to settle the controversy over whether a given specimen is a variety or an alteration? It seems to me that if no physical proof can be found, then one could only prove or disprove the myth or story about a given piece in order to settle the question of its origin.

I realize that I have asked many too many questions of a person as busy as I am sure you are, but I have a feeling that you have pieces of information on this subject that would be available absolutely no other place. The Half Doubloon story totally fascinates me, and I will appreciate as much or as little information as your busy days allow you to relate in reply. Any leads for further research would also be appreciated.

I simply could not close a letter to you without saying how much I have enjoyed every published piece of yours that I have read (especially the 1804 Dollar and the Good Samaritan Shilling analyses), and I look forward to the appearance of more such exceptional pieces from your pen in the future.

I have enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your reply which I will look forward to receiving with much anticipation.

Sincerely yours, George W. Cook

George W. Cook

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 6, 1974

Mr. George W. Cook
3917 Euclid Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75205

Dear Mr. Cook:

Thank you for your kind comments about my writing.

I have done considerable work on certain phases of the Brasher gold coinage, but have not written it up. Your inquiry leads me to encourage you to work on the half doubloon matter as the little information is mostly misinformation.

The normal Brasher doubloons, in my opinion, never circulated and never were intended to circulate. They were gold patterns for copper coinage, as I view it. They have no denomination or weight indication and were put out the year New York copper coinage franchises were under consideration and were probably given to legislators or the like. This makes a so called half doubloon slightly fatherless. There is no reason to challenge the genuineness of the half doubloon as a Brasher striking because of its size. The denomination is all there is to challenge. It may have been a striking over a regular 4 escudo. I have copies of the correspondence relating to the 1925 discovery of the half doubloon. I have some strange correspondence relating to the cutting down of the doubloon and enclose an article about it. You probably have Breen's 1958 comments and Taxay's comments.

I do not know of two specimens of a half doubloon.

The Brasher Spanish Doubloon is, in my opinion, a forgery.

Why don't you let me know if you have any information or is all of your data hearsay or thinking up to the present? Not getting an answer from Stefanelli is frustrating, but that has often happened to others. I will gladly help further if you are researching the matter.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

3917 Euclid Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75205
July 10, 1974

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you so much for your prompt and very helpful letter in answer to my inquiries about the so-called "Brasher Half Doubloon."

My interest in the history of the coin was sparked some time ago by the very Hewitt article that you sent me. It is true that all I know on this coin is what I have read from Breen, Hewitt, and several minor sources - so far. But I am still digging on the subject through personal inquiries such as that I made of you.

All of my research so far on this coin centers around the following question: Can it be conclusively proved and documented that the coin Breen calls the "half doubloon" was its present small size (as it resides in the Smithsonian via Josiah Lilly) prior to its ownership by Major Ball in the 1940's? I want to prove or disprove Hewitt's story once and for all.

I would certainly appreciate your help in the following ways:

1) Will you please tell me if you have specific and documented reasons to doubt Hewitt's "cutting down" story?

2) Would you please send me copies of your correspondence dealing with the 1925 half doubloon discovery and the other "strange" correspondence you mentioned concerning the doubloon cutting down - I think these would be very helpful to me and I would gladly reimburse you for the Xerox cost. Confidential nature of such will be strictly kept.

3) Do you have any idea as to what sources Breen may have used to establish his 1958 article pedigree on the Half Doubloon?

4) The Smithsonian coin may be the same coin that went from Proskey in 1928 to Boyd to Green to Smith to Ball to Lilly -- BUT was it the same size during its entire sojourn (and did even Breen document this)?

5) I am not aware of Taxay's comments on the doubloon subject - please refer me to publication and date.

6) I would like to trace the half doubloon on the Boyd inventory and appraisal of Col. Green's numismatic collection - the 1936 inventory made at Round Hills after the Col.'s death. I would assume that a description of thepiece would comment on the size if unusual. There were so many "Domicile" hearings on that estate that I feel that a public copy of this may reside somewhere. Can you shed any light on where I might encounter a public or private copy of that list?

I am rather stubborn as you might have guessed and, given so many past manipulations of little-known numismatic information for the sole financial benefit of the dealers involved and others, I am disinclined to easily dismiss Hewitt's story unless there is definite proof to the contrary.

I feel very privileged that someone of your knowledge and prominence would take the trouble to offer your help in my extremely humble research; and I would appreciate your help concerning especially the subjects that I outlined above. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your reply.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Cook

George W. Cook

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 23, 1974

Mr. George W. Cook
3917 Euclid Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75205

Re: Brasher Half Doubloon

Dear Mr. Cook:

When I was at the A. N. A. Convention I had a talk with Ken Bressett about your inquiry. We both concluded that it is essential to find out whether there could possibly be two pieces rather than one. He indicated to me that the two piece possibility came from Stefanelli.

I have the Lilly Estate appraisal and description and it is of no help. You will get nothing from the Col. Green inventory and from the experience I had in acquiring pieces from that estate I have reason to believe there was no detail.

As soon as you learn from Stefanelli whether he feels there are two pieces and what information he has as to the matter, I will be glad to cooperate with respect to the rest of the information I have.

As the matter stands now, there is only one piece and all of the effort I made to check up on the Newitt story resulted in a lack of confirmation.

What have you learned in the meanwhile?

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

3917 Euclid Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75205
September 17, 1974

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

I recently received my much-awaited reply from Dr. Stefanelli concerning his knowledge of the existence of more than one Brasher Half Doubloon; and the tone of his letter indicated that the possible history of this coin is a rather touchy subject. Stefanelli stated that he did not know of a second piece of this smaller type. He has not researched Lilly's specimen and indicates that he fully accepts any and all of Breen's conclusions as per the 1958 article (of course, Breen does state that this coin was "probably cut down from regular doubloon planchet" - he just fails to conclude if this was done before or after striking!).

I still have other feelers out and more varied opinions may yet come in. In the meantime, will you now please give me any other information you have concerning this coin - including any of the following areas:

1) Will you please tell me what specific and documented reasons you may have to doubt Hewitt's story?

2) Would you please send me copies of your correspondence dealing with the 1925 half doubloon discovery and the other "strange" correspondence you mentioned concerning the doubloon cutting-down - I still think these items would be helpful to me. I would gladly reimburse you for the Xerox cost.

3) Do you have any idea as to what sources Breen may have used to establish his 1958 article pedigree on the Half Doubloon.

4) Was even Breen able to document that the Lilly coin was its present size during its entire sojourn from Proskey to Lilly?

5) What leads you to suspect that the coin was struck over a 4 escudo?

6) Please refer me to date and publication of Taxay's comments on this coin.

7) Even though it may be of no use what-so ever, do you know of a source fro the Col. Green inventory? Also, are you familiar with Willard Snyder's "study" of the Colonel's coins and stamps as mentioned by Arthur Lewis on page 192 of his The Day They Shook The Plum Tree ? I would like to see a copy of this "study" if such exists - Snyder was one of the stamp appraisers. ANA Library was unfamiliar with any such "study."

I have now asked you for everything except the kitchen sink, but sometimes even the smallest lead might help uncover an important answer I suppose. Any further suggestions as to potential sources would be greatly appreciated at this point.

It now seems more and more inescapable that Hewitt's story - which I had originally set out to prove or disprove - may be forever impossible to document as true or untrue since no literature seems to exist on the history of the coin's physical condition, and the present condition of the Half Doubloon planchet may not reveal whether the cutting-down occured before or after striking.

In any case, I have not yet given up the search and would very much like the opportunity to examine what you have promised to tell me of the fruits of your research thus far - including the contents of your various inquiries - asoutlined previously.

Your encouragement in this matter has helpedimmensely so far, and I will be happy to share things that I may discover along this line in the future. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your reply.

Sincerely yours,

George W Cook

George W. Cook

The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc.

393 SEVENTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001 • (212) 947-0370

Rare Coins and Paper Money

April 2, 1976

Mrs. Margo Russell
Editor
Coin World
Sidney News Building
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Margo:

Yesterday being April Fool's day, it seemed like a good time to try to straighten out the riddle of the ownerships and pedigrees of the Brasher Doubloons.

Enclosed are copies of two 1967 Coin World stories containing the pedigree information which I have just updated.

The only coin I am not sure about is No. 7, the duPont piece, since I have no other information to go on but the Coin World story of December 20, 1967 (see enclosed).

This coin is traced to Waldo Newcomer and Jackson. The pedigree of coin No. 5 also traces to Waldo Newcomer and to Allison W. Jackman.

I wonder if Harold Gray, the duPont lawyer, or possibly the Coin World reporter, might have confused the name Jackman with Jackson, and in fact, if the No. 7 duPont piece traces back to the same Waldo Newcomer and Allison W. Jackman as No. 5.

Perhaps one of your reporters could check this further by contacting Willis duPont or Harold Gray, so that the complete pedigree for coin No. 7 can be nailed down once and for all.

Also, we do not know the weight in grains of the duPont piece. The weights of all of the others are known.

I also wonder about the spelling of Lammot duPont. Shouldn't it be Lammont? Since I don't run around in the same circles as the duPonts, I am sure you will forgive my ignorance on this point.

I hope the above is of some help (?).

Best regards.

Cordially yours,

Arthur

AG:eg
enc.

ARTHUR GOLDENBERG

P. S. Congratulations on the editorial excitement you have injected into Coin World.

P. P. S. Thanks very much for the prominent position accorded the acknowledgement of the photos from "Paper Money of the United States" in this week's Coin World.

Dupont, Willis A — [illegible]

LAW OFFICES OF
POINDEXTER & DOUTRÉ
INCORPORATED
ONE WILSHIRE BUILDING - SUITE 2920
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017
(213) 628-8297

WILLIAM M. POINDEXTER
ALFRED B. DOUTRÉ
EVAN G. WILLIAMS
BRUCE S. ROSS
JAMES P. DRUMMY
NANCY M. REBELLO

June 15, 1976

Mrs. Margo Russell, Editor
Coin World
Post Office Box 150
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Re: duPont/Gold Coin

Dear Mrs. Russell:

This office represents Mr. Willis duPont in a suit against United States of America, et al., for return of an 1855 Kellogg and Company $50 gold piece. As you are aware, this and other coins were stolen from Mr. duPont some years ago, and this one was recovered by the F.B.I.

Apparently, other persons have made claims to ownership of this coin. It is my understanding that the basis for their claims is the innocent purchase of the coin subsequent to the robbery.

In anticipation of such claims being pursued, I have discussed with Mr. Abraham Kosoff the subject of the publicity which surrounded the robbery and which has been given to the coin since that time. It would seem that numismatists and coin collectors of sufficient experience and means to be interested in this coin would be aware of its theft.

Mr. Kosoff indicates that you may have a file on this matter showing the publicity which surrounded the coin's disappearance and news articles concerning the matter which have appeared subsequently. This material would tend to show that persons acquiring the coin since it was taken from the possession of Mr. duPont should have knowledge of the robbery.

I wonder if you could give us any help in this matter. In any event, I would appreciate hearing any ideas you may have on the subject.

Yours very truly,

Alfred B. Doutre'

ABD:rb

LAW OFFICES OF
POINDEXTER & DOUTRÉ
INCORPORATED
ONE WILSHIRE BUILDING - SUITE 2920
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017
(213) 628-8297

WILLIAM M. POINDEXTER
ALFRED B. DOUTRÉ
EVAN G. WILLIAMS
BRUCE S. ROSS
JAMES P. DRUMMY
NANCY M. REBELLO

June 25, 1976

Mrs. Margo Russell, Editor
Coin World
Post Office Box 150
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Re: duPont/Gold Coin

Dear Mrs. Russell:

Thank you very much for all the clippings and documents concerning the duPont robbery. I am going through them now, and feel that they could be a definite aid to us in recovering the coin.

We really appreciate your courtesy and willingness to help.

Yours very truly,

Alfred B. Doutre'

ABD:rb

cc: A. Kosoff

To:

Eric Newman
6350 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.
63105

Coin World
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD
P.O. BOX 150
SIDNEY, OHIO 45365

SUBJECT

FOLD

DATE 8/2/76

Dear Eric:

This is like trying to tell which twin has the Toni. The key to the Brasher apparently rests with Du Pont. As you see, the Du Pont Brasher was recovered in 1968, but to my knowledge has not seen the light of day since. I threw in the Doutre correspondence because I thought you'd find it interesting.

I realized identical pedigrees were claimed for the piece now owned by ANS and Du Pont is specimen. So I was extra-careful to have the Du Pont attorney confirm the pedigree.

Sincerely,

Margo Russell, editor
COIN WORLD

mw

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 13, 1976

Mrs. Margot Russell
P. O. Box 150
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Margo:

I am delightfully pleased, but not surprised with the Brasher doubloon matters you sent.

I can only reinforce your thinking with an excerpt from Mehl's inventory and appraisement of the Waldo Newcomer collection. A few pieces from this collection (including the Brasher) were sold to John Garrett and perhaps someone else, but the great bulk was sold to Col. E. H. R. Green. Wayte Raymond participated in the transaction.

Two coins cannot have the same pedigree as you herald loud and clear. I have never understood the reluctance of the DuPonts to show anyone even a picture of their piece, much less the coin itself if it exists. Thus, the burden is on them to show what they might have, if anything. Ask them for a picture.

I wish I could be of further help.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, Inc.

6922 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90028
Telephone: (213) 466-4595, or toll free outside California (800) 421-4224
Telex: 69-1555 Photograde LSA

May 18, 1979

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

I hope this letter finds all well with you and Evelyn. Thanks again for your great help with my "Adventures With Rare Coins" book.

As you may have heard, our firm will be auctioning the Garrett Collection for Johns Hopkins University. The unrestricted auction sale will take place over the next several years and will be in several different sections. Inasmuch as the colonial, territorial, and certain other sections of the catalog are quite extensive and valuable, it is our plan that each sale catalog contain selections from each major area. In other words, rather than having one immense offering of colonials - with obvious repercussions to the budget of colonial collectors - it is our plan to have each sale have a selection of colonials within it.

Our plan is to produce a reference book describing the collection and its contents. This book, which will be several hundred pages in length, will give a general history of United States coinage and will be illustrated with specimens from the Garrett holdings. Once this is done then the individual auction catalogs will be prepared.

In the collection there are many interesting pieces, many of which are probably familiar to you. If not, I would be happy to send you a list of any areas which might be interesting. As I would like the reference book and auction catalogs to be as complete and as accurate as possible, I would be very appreciative for any opinions you might care to give concerning the provenance or status of any items. In particular, I am quite interested in the Spanish style Brasher doubloon. I have read what Breen said about it in the 1958 American Numismatic Society publication, what Adams said about it in "The Numismatist" and also the notes he left at the American Numismatic Society on the subject, and a few other locations. The "Colonial Newsletter," issue of March-June 1966, page 28, notes:

"There is no doubt that in 1787 Brasher went off on his own and made his gold doubloon and LIMA-style doubloons (one very competent expert doubts if the LIMA-style are bona fide).

In talking with Ken Bressett, he said that you had some thoughts concerning the LIMA-style piece. I have not been able to find anyone else who is particularly against the piece, but this may or may not be significant - for your opinion, backed with reasonable evidence, may be worth more than the casual opinions of others. In any event, Eric, your thoughts on this would be very much appreciated.

After you have had a chance to think about this why not give me a call at your convenience? Our toll free number is 800-421-4224.

Best personal regards,

Q. David Bowers

QDB:jh

Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, Inc.

6922 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90028
Telephone: (213) 466-4595, or toll free outside California (800) 421-4224
Telex: 69-1555 Photograde LSA

May 25, 1979

Brasher

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric,

It was a pleasure to talk with you on Thursday. Over the next few weeks I will be sending you information as per our discussion.

I will send you under separate cover this week the following three coins for your commentary:

1. The Higley threepence, our inventory no. 93, with legend THE WHEELE GOES ROUND. When returning this please register it at a value of $30,000.*

2. 1787? Brasher "Lima" doubloon, our inventory no. 196. Please register this for $10,000.

3. 1852/1 $20, Augustus Humbert, our inventory no. 1769. Please register this for $20,000.

On further thought, I will enclose a few other items which we did not mention: these will be our inventory nos. 197 through 202 inclusive and consists of six pieces which bear "E B" counterstamps, some of which may pertain to Brasher. This entire group can be registered for $5,000 when returning it.

Can you acknowledge receipt of these when you get them?

While knowledge of our having acquired for auction the Garrett Collection is fairly common throughout the coin field, no official announcement has been made. We are awaiting the timing suggested by the University trustees in this regard. So, I ask you to keep in confidence for the moment the fact you have these pieces - if you do discuss them, please be judicious.

Concerning your thoughts about the Lima piece the truth is what counts - not how the public will feel about it. If you feel that the piece is not authentic then by all means say so. On the other hand, if the coin does have a clean bill of health then it would be wise to state this as well. It would seem to me that the signature on the piece would be very helpful in this regard. If the punches conform precisely to the signature on the regular 1787 Brasher doubloons, then this

* for this + the other 4 will be insured for, of course

would be a point in the Lima piece's favor.

It would seem to me also that if non-destructive testing of metal content could be accomplished, it could be determined what alloys and trace elements in addition to gold would be present in the coin. I imagine that in 1787 the alloy would not be precise. If such a test showed that the piece had an alloy that conformed to the later United States Mint standard for gold coins, this would indicate to me that coin gold was used, possibly from a melted-down United States issue, and the piece would be suspicious. Perhaps you could think of other tests.

Any information that you furnish to me, Eric, will be given appropriate credit in the manner that you wish.

I am sending along with this letter copies of the Guttag presentation of the 1783 "bit". When John Work Garrett acquired the Colonel John W. Ellsworth Collection in March 1923 he acquired a duplicate of this piece. As he needed only one, the other was sold throught Wayte Raymond, who handled many of his duplicates, to Julius Guttag, who offered it for sale.

Keep in touch and let me know what you come up with. I very, very much appreciate your help and interest!

Best wishes,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/eg

16 24 64 3V 1 385

408 / 385

17.7 sp 8.

17.7

408000

x3

178

161

170

161

17.7 sp 8

6/10/79

If regular Brasher doubloons are patterns for a copper for ~~E~~ NY state then the idea of a doubloon never occurred to Brasher.

Much sharper strike than any doubloon of 1787

Small letters in Brashe differ from 1787

obverse side without his name written in each case.

Weight of 408 grains is identical Crosby

If Brasher was so well known why did he put NY on Spanish?

The date differs in 1787 & 1788

Legend ⁘ I HISP I ARUM ET IND REX

V • D • G • ET H REX AND 17UU PHILIP •

Edge extensively filed.

Perfect centering and no full letters

No profit in coining

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 23, 1979

Bowers & Ruddy Galleries
6922 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Attention: Mr. Rick Bagg

Dear Mr. Bagg:

In accordance with your instructions I am enclosing herewith or in supplemental packages the eight pieces from the Hopkins collection which I still have on hand. You have already advised me that the ninth piece has been returned to you through Richard Picker.

These pieces consist of the Spanish Brasher Doubloon, six Brasher counterstamped coins and Humbert 1852 over 1851 proof.

The purpose of this return is to enable you to take macro-photos of the EB counterstamp on these pieces as well as the two New York doubloons which you have on hand. I believe much can be learned from a detail comparison of the EB counterstamp on all of the pieces. Please send me enlarged prints both of the coins, as well as blow-ups of the counterstamps. It is not necessary to send blow-ups of any of the counterstamps than the type which appears on the New York doubloons. I am looking forward to those pictures very much, along with the return of the Spanish doubloon and the counterstamped pieces. Do not return the Humbert.

Your desire to reimburse us for expenses is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

F. L. PUTNAM & COMPANY, INC.
MEMBER – BOSTON STOCK EXCHANGE
50 CONGRESS STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
(617) 423-3410

October 16, 1979

Dear Mr. Newman,

I apologize for the delay. At B+R, our photographer has been extremely busy. He told me he will be able to photo the edges of the Novas and the GB's of the two big Brushes this week.

I have enclosed a Xerox of the GB from the Time Style. I hope it helps in your decision.

Sincerely,

Richard Bagg

F. L. PUTNAM & COMPANY, INC.
MEMBER – BOSTON STOCK EXCHANGE
50 CONGRESS STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
(617) 423-3410

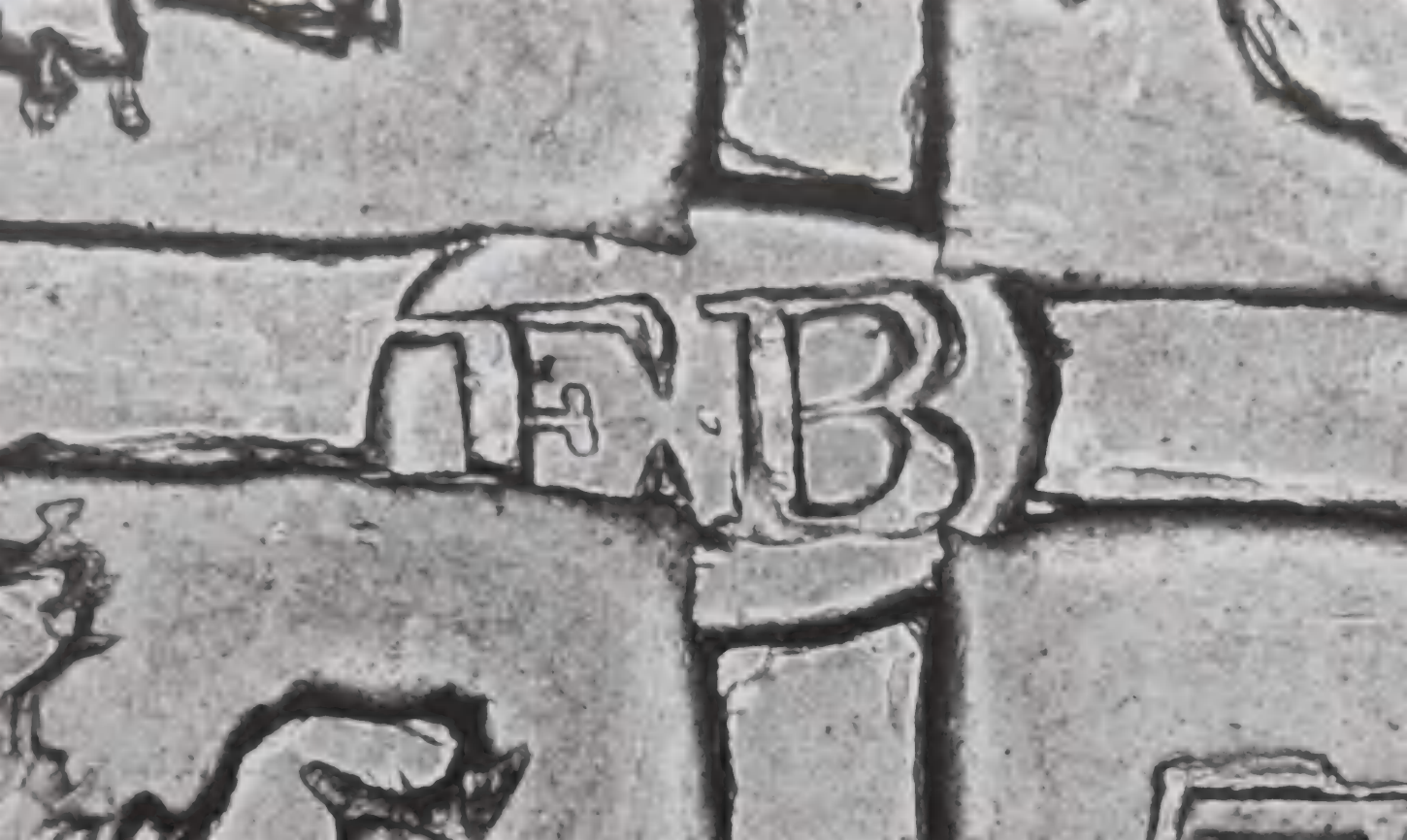
NOV. 9, 1979

Dear Mr. Newman,

Enclosed are the blowups of the 2 EBI's that you requested along with the edges from the NOVAS.

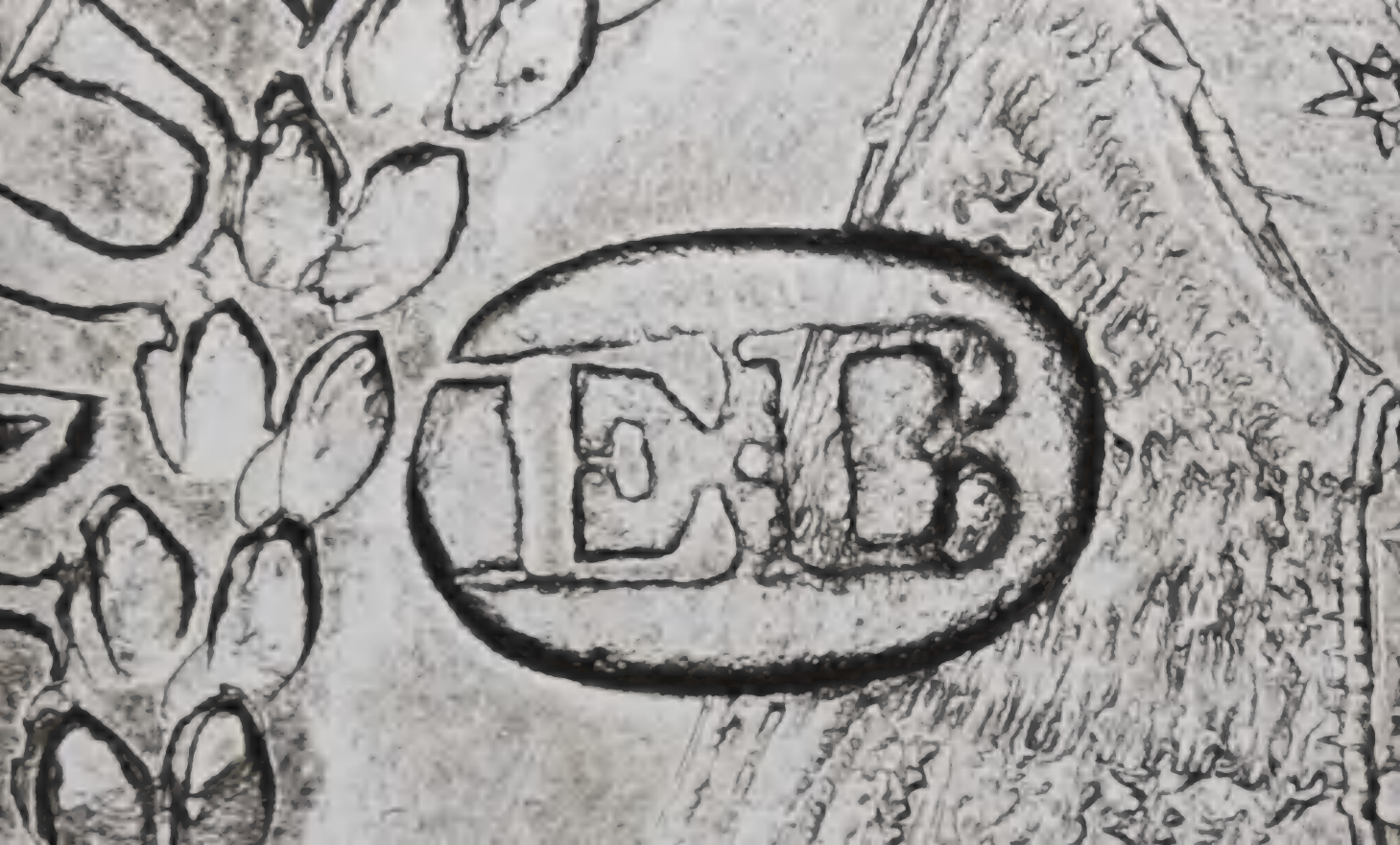
I apologize for the delay.

Sincerely,
Rick Bagg



Richard Bagg
1979

EB on
Garrett Specimen
3
Lima Style
doubloon


EB

Nov 1979

EB Counterstamp on
Johns Hopkins Brasher Doubloon
with punch on wing



Nov. 1979

EB (counterstamp on
Johns Hopkins Brasher Doubloon
with punch on shield on breast.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 19, 1979

Mr. Rick Bagg
F. L. Putnam & Co.
50 Congress St.
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Rick:

You were great to send me such fine photographic prints of the Brasher counterstamps. They will be of great aid in diagnosing the Brasher Spanish Doubloon.

As to the Nova edge prints, I realize how difficult they were to photo because of the focus problem. The pictures in the auction catalog helped to identify them.

Thanks again for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Q. David Bowers

Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

March 26, 1981

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

George Fuld telephoned me the other day and said that you did not like the description of the 1742-dated Brasher piece. You will specifically recall that when I first encountered this piece I asked you for your thoughts concerning it, and you demurred and would not give me any information about it at all. So, I feel that for you to criticize the piece on the grounds that more information should have been given -- especially information which might agree with information which you have or with ideas you think -- is a bit unfair to me.

If you have additional information which you feel would be useful or interesting, I would be pleased to incorporate it in a future edition of the Garrett book.

Best wishes,

Dave

Q. David Bowers

QDB:mg

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

April 3, 1981

Mr. Q. David Bowers
Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Dear Dave:

The success of your sale of the Garrett material is one of the major accomplishments in numismatics. You should be very satisfied that all of your work and planning produced superlatives in many respects. I congratulate you for it.

As to your letter of March 26, 1981 about the 1742 Brasher item, I would have given you my thoughts concerning it if my thoughts were decisive one way or another. They were not. What I think we should do is go over the material each of us has on the piece and then you could incorporate it in any future edition of the Garrett book.

I hope you and your family enjoy the East coast and I look forward to seeing you at the earliest convenient occasion.

Cordially yours,

Eric P. Newman

jah

New York. Brasher Doubloon, 1787
Gift of the Norweb Collection
© 1981 The American Numismatic Society, New York



Dr. & Mrs. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

80-81B 1 Produced by Publishing Center for Cultural Resources, NYC


UNUM



23 August 1983

Eric P. Newman, Esq.
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

My good friend Bill Christensen suggested that I write to you in connection with some countermarked gold coins which appear to belong to colonial America. As an enthusiastic specialist in West Indies coinage but a total ignoramus in colonial, I'm looking for some expertise. The story of the coins in question is of necessity a little rambling, but I hope you'll bear with me.

To begin with, the very close mercantile connection between the North American colonies and the West Indies is well-known historically; the trade - very largely contraband - was extremely active. We know for that the gold coinage of the West Indies from about the middle of the 18th century on consisted overwhelmingly of the Portuguese/Brazilian Joe of 6400 Reis, with Spanish American gold a distant second. From the essay of R. Solomon in your book on early American coins we know that the Joe was also common in the North American colonies, not surprising in view of the trade flow. Finally, from the same source we know that the pre Revolutionary standard in those colonies was 9 dwt 4 grains for the Joe, but that later it was 9 dwt, although it is a little unclear just when the shift took place.

From here let's start with Ephraim Brasher. There are a number of Joes around countermarked we 'EB'. There are

usually catalogued as Ephraim Brasher, but with a certain reserve. Now, I've seen some of these coins as well as a magnification of his mark on one of the famous 'doubloons'. There is, believe me, no need for any reservations; they are one and the same mark. From the coins, we can determine that he worked to a 9dwt standard for the Joe, which incidentally was unknown in the West Indies.

In contrast to 'EB', there is countermark found on Joes (and guineas) that is always listed as 'West Indies - Unattributed'; it is an rather elaborate script B. But Script B worked exactly like Ephraim Brasher. He either plugged up to a 9dwt standard or clipped down to it. He is found on true Portuguese/Brazilian pieces, not the numerous contemporary forgeries. He is also found on guineas — to a "standard" U.S. weight — and these did not circulate in the West Indies. I really do not believe there can be any hesitation in attributing Script B to the young United States. The suggestion has been made that he is Ephraim Brasher under a different hat. I personally rather incline to this idea, mainly because I haven't been able to find a gold/silversmith's mark of script B anywhere, but the matter is certainly open.

So we have Ephraim Brasher and Script B clipping, plugging and countermarking gold coins to the U.S. standard weight of the late 18th century. This is nothing new. How comes the intriguing part.

Among the 'West Indies' plugged and countermarked unattributed gold coins there is a class which has always been worrisome. These are true Portuguese/Brazilian Joes, a little under 9dwt 4 grains,

with extremely small plugs — so small that it was thought they must represent very fine tuning indeed of the weight. But no one was too happy with this. I have appended a list of some of these.

A couple of months ago I acquired in a trade a coin which turned out to be sort of a 'Rosetta stone'. It's a medium clipped Jac, 1743R, weighing 12.42 grains (obviously on an 8 dwt standard) plugged with one of these very small plugs in the center, countermarked I·L·T. The coin, which I had had my eye on for some time and which I had to trade good value to get, intrigued me very much for two reasons. First, only Tortola and the Danish West Indies used an 8 dwt standard; since Tortola was unlikely to have had much gold to speak of, much less a goldsmith, that left St Thomas, a busy commercial center at the time, and no Danish West Indian countermarked gold is known. Second, three initials, with a dot, are distinctive, whereas two initials, such as 'J S', are only a mystic.

Still, when digging into books on U.S. silversmiths' marks in the New York Public Library (still looking for Script B), I stumbled on I·L·T. But he wasn't in St Thomas, unfortunately; he was a goldsmith in Philadelphia, in business as early as 1770. Named John LeTellier.

Apparently John LeTellier stamped the coin in Philadelphia, it then found its way to St Thomas in the active West Indies trade previously noted, and was there clipped down to the local standard of 8 dwt. This was a very customary practice in the islands, incidentally. After all, if a gold coin was to pass by tale at a set minimum weight, it would be foolish to pass a heavier one.

But if I·L·T was U.S. colonial, not West Indies, what about the other coins with characteristic similar tiny plugs? In discussing these

with fellow enthusiast Ken Eckardt of Puerto Rico, he made the suggestion that we were only thinking about plugging for weight because we were thinking West Indies, where clipping was rife, and that there might be assay plugs. The goldsmith would remove a small amount of gold from the center of the joe, assay it, replace it and stamp his initials on it as a guarantee of genuineness. This seems extremely likely and would clear up the puzzle of the mini-plugs. It would not, of itself, make these coins North American instead of West Indies, but their weights would. Joes as underweight as these just did not exist in the islands, or at least were very rare. (The B.A. colonies made a value difference between the joe and the 4 escudos in accordance with their gold content; the West Indies, by contrast, did not, so the joes were clipped to make them equal to the Spanish pieces, and there was for the clippers time and trouble.)

Why assay joes in particular? I've found in my library a contemporary reference (1774) to counterfeit gold coins of English manufacture being brought into St Domingue. Although the kind of coin is not specified, it almost certainly concerned joes. This would be a possible clue to the colonial goldsmiths' suspicions.

I didn't have time when in N.Y.C. to check out thoroughly the initials found on these mini-plugged pieces, but note that there seem to be ample possibilities. For example, one set of initials is 'TU'. 'U' is a very uncommon initial for a last name, in English or French at least. But there was a gold/silversmith with these initials in N.Y. at a likely period. (Don't have my notes on him with me.)

Obviously, we're a long way from being able to state clearly that there are U.S. colonial coins (other than I·LT), but it seems to me that there is a sufficiently good possibility to warrant an inquiry. Since I have plenty on my hands with the West Indies, where I

more or less know my way around, I wondered if you yourself or anyone you would care to suggest would want to look into the matter. If so, I'd be delighted to provide all the information I have.

Very Truly Yours.

Ralph C. Gordon

RALPH C. GORDON
BP 824
97208 FORT-DE-FRANCE
MARTINIQUE, F.W.I.

(Suit attached).

Some coins with distinctive and characteristic very small center plugs. All are genuine Portuguese / Brazilian gold.

1. 6400 Reis	1743 (Lisbon)	14.22 grams	cmkd TP	
2. 6400 Reis	1755 B	14.08 grams	cmkd TP	Full round coin, a little light.
3. 6400 Reis	1753 R	14.23 grams	cmkd TP	
4. 6400 Reis	1737 R	12.46 grams	cmkd TP	Holed and clipped
5. 800 Reis	1730 M	1.78 grams	cmkd TS	ANS collection
6. 6400 Reis	1759 R		cmkd TS	Hibbs, 1966, illustrated
7. 6400 Reis	1769 R	14.14 grams	cmkd TU	File marks on part of edge
8. 6400 Reis	1745 B	14.19 grams	cmkd TU	
9. 6400 Reis	1751 R	14.08 grams	cmkd OH (or HO)	Light filing.
10. 6400 Reis	1743 R	12.42 grams	cmkd I·L·T	Clipped
11. 6400 Reis	1760 (Lisbon)	13.95 grams	cmkd TP on small plug as above and also EB in oval. Lightly clipped. ANS collection.	
12. 6400 Reis	1768 R	13.95 grams	cmkd W.T. on typical very small plug and also script B.	

Note that the latest coin date is 1769.

There are others which are borderline cases (especially F & S) or for which catalogue entries provide insufficient data.

A number of these pieces are illustrated in Pridmore, pp. 279-281, and Byrne catalogue, lots 1203-1211.

Oct 7, 1983

Mr R C Gordon
Boite Postale 8 r 4
97208 Fort de France
Martinique, West Indies

Dear Mr Gordon

My wife and I visited Martinique in 1951 and slept one night at the Vieux Moulin before getting on to the Lido Hotel. We ended up having a wonderful time.

Bill Christensen told me you were in United States and telephoned me. Unfortunately I was out of my office at the time.

Your research and your collection are very intriguing and very difficult. Many of the hand (E.B) hoped to prove something more than the standard counterstamp. I have a piece with the script B and will have it photographed and mailed for you. I have a set of (E.B) spoons and a set of [E.B] spoons. Brasher was out in the open in his work and would have used his script B on everything else I believe if it were he

I have sent a copy of your letter to Joseph Lasser 5 r r Fifth Ave, New York City, to see if he could help. I want to think about how I can help you. - Have seen the Johnson Hopkins pieces. Have you a list of all the pieces listed in auction catalogs & illustrated in them. Does Chalmers say anything about them?

This letter is just an acknowledgement of your interesting letter. Let me think further on the matter and you should feel free to send me any way you can.

It is always a pleasure to share problems with a serious researcher

Kind regards,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 5, 1988

Mr. Kenneth E. Bressett
American Numismatic Association
818 North Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279

Dear Ken:

You have no doubt had an opportunity to reread carefully the Bowers article on the Brasher half doubloon since we talked about it over the telephone. You have the responsibility of listing it in the Red Book or not and I felt I should give you some comment. It is a very difficult problem and we wanted to give you a couple of other thoughts:

1) For a person of Brasher's standing to make a half doubloon on purpose with the same dies he was using for a full doubloon is destructive of any confidence he intended to develop for the public acceptance of the doubloon. This of course assumes that the doubloon was intended to be circulated, a matter which is also not clear. My point merely is that making a half doubloon is not logical, using doubloon dies. To add his EB mark by counterstamp adds insult to injury to the half doubloon.

2) Bowers points out that the half doubloon has filing and cutting on part of the edge. He indicates that it could have been mounted. This is proof that the edge has been tampered with in some manner. That is very damaging to his theory.

3) Polishing and rounding off the edge somewhat instead of filing it off and leaving file marks is not difficult.

4) If the planchet was struck by an extra hard blow it would become thinner and would spread wider, increasing the chance of border splitting. If the planchet was somewhat thinner than the others but weighed the proper amount for a doubloon, it would also spread wider, increasing the chance of border splitting. If there were border splits, the idea of converting the coin into half weight to eliminate the defect would not be too difficult to conceive.

5) The pedigree of the half doubloon does not seem fully correct and does not conform to certain information in our file. Johnson certainly did not acquire it from the Green Estate or I would have not only known about it but would have handled the matter as I did all those negotiations for purchase.

6) It is not appropriate at this time for us to comment on the Spanish Brasher Doubloon as only a casual comment is made about it in the Bowers article.

7) We do not plan to bring up the points in this letter with Bowers unless he or Smithsonian asks me or unless the matter comes up in some way so that it is improper for me not to comment.

8) We have in our file a story written by Hewitt in correspondence with the Chicago people about the half doubloon being in the Ball Estate and being cut down. I tried very hard to get the information in writing from the parties involved but did not succeed as they were too old and decrepit. Harry Boosel was familiar with this.

If you think we are obliged to send a copy of this letter to Dave, we will certainly consider it, but we do not want arguments nor do we want to be critical voluntarily.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman, President

EPN:bv

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 27, 1988

Mr. Kenneth E. Bressett
P. O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960-0145

Dear Ken:

I have some further thoughts on an appropriate test of the Brasher half doubloon.

If the coin had been cut down and its edge polished, it would have been held in a lathe by soft side pressure and the circumference would be very circular from being worked on by turning. If, however, it was struck without a collar, the movement of the metal outward, would be different in some areas than in others. In other words, if the edge were filed off and then polished by a spinning action, it would be too circular and thus artificial. In a normal striking the diameter and shape of the edge would vary, particularly where the intaglio design in the die would be open to the air.

This supplements my recent letter to you on the subject and I wonder what your opinion is of this thought.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

PREMIER
COIN INVESTMENTS INC.
15025 Glazier Avenue South, Suite 111
Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124
(612) 431-6922 (800) 624-2581

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 3, 1988

Dear Eric,

I appreciate your latest letters and all of the effort that you have put into analyzing the Brasher so-called half doubloon. I have not commented further to Dave Bowers about the piece because I have nothing new to add. He knows that I believe the piece to be made from a genuine coin. I just have no knowledge of when, why or how it came to be such an unusual size and weight.

In consideration of the piece being genuine, controversial, and in the National collection, I think that it should be recognized in some way in the future editions of the Guide Book. I do not intend to call it a half doubloon, because that cannot be verified. Existing evidence can be interpreted in different ways, and it is inconclusive in determining if the planchet was cut down before or after striking the piece with doubloon dies.

Brasher is known to have applied his hallmark to all sorts of gold coins without regard to the fact that some were worn, clipped or even plugged. It is not impossible that he did so on some sort of a light weight planchet just to make it usable.

I feel that the best course of action just now would be for me to list the piece as I did once before, calling it a so-called half doubloon made from a cut down planchet. Just why any of the pieces were made is beyond me. Personally I feel that they are nothing more than presentation pieces made to get the New York coinage contract.

Enclosed is a promotional piece that Premier used to promote their exhibit in San Francisco. The coin is only on loan from Leon Hendrickson. Sorry to see that they spelled your name wrong. They did it to me in an ad they are running in some of the coin papers.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 6, 1988

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
P. O. Box 60145
Colorady Springs, CO 80960-0145

Dear Ken:

I like your new calling card. I like your new stationery. Thanks for the 1804 dollar blurb.

I don't like what you think you are going to say about the Brasher half doubloon. I think it is wrong to list it when a footnote would serve.

You are sticking your neck out by saying it is "made from a cut down planchet." In my opinion that is very doubtful. Someone could have cut it down later.

Your statement about Brasher putting his hallmark on all sorts of foreign gold coins whether clipped or plugged is true, but he cut the holes in and then plugged them up in his testing. He clipped off parts of foreign coins to test. No such testing on his own doubloon or half doubloon was needed. If all his counterstamp means is that the fineness is proper, there is no basis for anyone knowing what was proper fineness for his doubloons.

I agree that the Brasher stuff was probably made to promote the obtaining of the coinage contract for N.Y. coffers.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

10/6/88
Suggest you use 1787 the Columbia Change - Copy enclosed from Eastern Coin Review by Matthias Ogden Fecit Submitted for publication in Matthias Newsletter by Col Nassau See enclosure Best Eric

FROM THE DESK OF **ERIC P. NEWMAN**

PREMIER
COIN INVESTMENTS INC.
15025 Glazier Avenue South, Suite 111
Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124
(612) 431-6922 (800) 624-2581

Kenneth Bressett
Colorado Springs

October 31, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Your letters, notes and calls are always very much appreciated. I apologize for not getting back to you on matters concerning the Brasher doubloon as expressed in your last letter. I have been traveling quite a bit, and keeping very much involved in work for Premier, to the exclusion of just about everything else this month.

After rethinking the Brasher situation, and various ways of handling some mention of it in the Guide Book, I have now worked out a statement that could be used as a footnote. It seems to me that this latest attempt to at least acknowledge the piece is factual, and may satisfy those who believe in the piece, as well as those who are still in doubt as to its origin and purpose.

Please read and consider the footnote carefully. I am still willing to alter it in any way that will be better understood by the book's users, or more accurate if that is necessary. I do feel that something must be said about the coin because of Bowers' convincing article, and the national attention that the coin has received recently.

Your suggestion to change the 1787 Immunis Columbia to a Federal pattern submitted by Ogden, is a good one. That should be an easy addition to the text, and I will see to having it inserted for the next edition.

I still do not know if I will be attending the Silver Dollar coin show in St. Louis. It is possible that I will be there for a day or so. I will let you know as soon as I make plans, and perhaps we can get together for lunch or a visit.

Sincerely,



The unique piece known as a "half doubloon" is undersized, but made from the normal dies. Its origin and intent are undetermined. A similar mystery surrounds the 1742 "Lima Style Doubloon" that incorporates the name Brasher and his counterstamp.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 7, 1988

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
P. O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960-0145

Dear Ken:

Thank you for your letter of October 31, 1988. With respect to the footnote you plan to use in the Brasher matter, I naturally have a comment. I would for clarity insert after the word **normal** the word **doubloon.** In the third sentence I would strike the word **similar** because the Lima Doubloon is probably a forgery, which distinguishes it from the half doubloon, which originally was not so blighted. I would change the word **incorporates** to **includes** and would eliminate the word **his** and substitute the words **an E.B.** so as not to infer that Brasher's counterstamp is legitimate on that piece.

Excuse my flyspecking but you know I am a "Time Flies" addict.

I hope you come to St. Louis for the show.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

At the bottom of page 40, replace the present footnote with the following:

> The unique piece known as a "half Doubloon", is undersized, but made from the normal doubloon dies. Its source is undetermined. A mystery also surrounds the origin and intent of the 1742 "Lima Style Doubloon", which includes an E.B. counterstamp and the name Brasher.

PREMIER
COIN INVESTMENTS INC.
15025 Glazier Avenue South, Suite 111
Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124
(612) 431-6922 (800) 624-2581

Kenneth Bressett
Colorado Springs

November 9, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric,

I really appreciate your efforts to help me construct an appropriate footnote for the troublesome "half doubloon".

Enclosed is yet another attempt to cover the situation in a way that still leaves it hanging as an unsolved bit of numismatic intrigue. Perhaps we will never know the true story of where this piece originated, or how it got to be so small.

You know by now that I was not able to get to the St. Louis Silver Dollar Show. Perhaps next year I will be able to make it if the coin market is a little better.

I just got the sad news this morning that my dear friend Dick Yeoman died last night. I understand that it was a stroke while he was driving, and he hit a pole. He was 84. Dick was one of the kindest and most entertaining people that I have ever known. I will miss him.

Sincerely,

11/19/90 EPN to M Hodder

BRASHER SPANISH DOUBLOONS

My research file has in it:

Bagg + Bowers	March 1981 Numismatist	p 608 etc
Edgar Adams	Apr 1915 Numismatist	p 154 etc
AM Kagin	Nov 1957 Numismatic Scrapbook	p. 2097 etc
Henry Drowne	1893 Proceedings of Amer Num + Arch Soc.	p 41 etc
Scott Stamp + Coin	130th Sale Dec 12, 1894	p 38 Lot 813
Editor	Apr 1916 Numismatist	p. 165
Committee Report	1/16/1915 Amer J of Num	
Woodward Sale	Feb 1887 #807	
Lynn Glaser	Clf in America	p. 64 (1968)
Coinage Magazine	Jan 1968.	
Lynn Glaser	Numismatic Scrapbook	March 1965 p. 625 etc
Walter Breen	" "	June 1957 (Rarest gold)
Numisma	Mar 1957 Vol 4 No 2	
Numismatist	Aug 1922	p. 374
Coinage Magazine	Jan 1968	
Taxay	Clf Misstruck + Unofficial,	p. 28.

Pictures of foreign coins with various clstps of B. or EB
Auction records of coins with clstp B or EB.
Correspondence about Brasher pieces

AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.

When great collections are sold, Bowers and Merena sells them.

December 18, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

I was happy to hear of your interest in the topic I had chosen for next year's COAC on pre-federal coinage: The Brasher Lima style doubloon. I am particularly happy to hear that you are willing to share the fruits of your long years of research into this enigmatic and somewhat obscure coin. This will, I am sure, make my job of analyzing the coin that much easier, as well as more authoritative. I shall be happy to credit you with any information that I may use, that you have supplied.

As I told you, never having seen a specimen of the issue as yet, I have no opinion one way or another as to its authenticity. It is, indeed, a remarkable and interesting piece, one that will repay further study, I am sure.

The "tack" I think I shall take in the study will resemble that you may find in my discussion of the Roper Birch cent, in the most recent issue of Penny Wise: A simple recitation of the known facts and scientific evidence adduced pro and con about the coin. Should I discover any information, or benefit from any of your findings, that proves that the piece is correct or not, then I should be able to offer an opinion, myself. If not, then I shall simply have to leave such decisions up to the individual readers of the article.

Here is wishing you and your family a happy holiday and a safe, peaceful, and healthy New Year.

Yours truly,

Mike

Michael J. Hodder
Director of Research
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

MJH/kdw

BOX 1224 • WOLFEBORO, N H 03894 • (800) 458-4646 • (603) 569-5095 • FAX: (603) 569-5319

EPW
to Michael Hodder 12/20/90

(1)

Comments & Observations on 1742 Brashers

Of the 1787 Brashers were patterns for copper coinage the idea of a hemitype would never have occured to him even if he used genuine 8 escudo coins as undercoins to make his 1787 Brashers after rolling, hammering or pressing the design out of them. He made a New York coin.

The small letters in BRASHEER on the 1742 pieces are quite different in many particulars from the small letters in the 1787 pieces.

The 1742 Brashers are struck much more sharply than the 1787 Brashers, indicating different striking equipment.

The center dot and letter structure in the (E B) counterstamp on the 1742 pieces differs from the counterstamp on the 1787 pieces and on the Silverware.

Let's get a picture of a genuine 1742 hemi 8 escudo. It probably had a plain edge rounded by melt

The letters on the 1742 pieces are cut with a line punch and a dot punch and other parts and decorations are all cut by hand.

The position of the (E B) punch on the 1742 Brashers is so poor as to be unreadable to a great extent and not useful as a validator.

Why would lettering on the cross side of the 1742 Brashers have no serifs while the lettering on the pillar side have serifs. Compare N, X, E, A + T on each side and note how crude the work is.

Why was NY put on the 1742 piece if Brasher was so well known. That was guilding the lily and was not done on the 1787 pieces.

the 1795 U.S. Silver dollar with EB countersteng is listed in Bolender and the clasp is obviously fake.

Why would Brasher who had a fine reputation as an honest goldsmith and silversmith make a 1742 doubloon, and put his name on it if it was short weight in precious metal. He wouldn't, therefore if it is not short weight there is no purpose in doing it as he had plenty work to do. He was not deliberately trying to ruin his reputation. The gold content of the 1742 Brasher pieces will clear this up.

The edge of the 1742 gold piece (Garrett) was filed and file marks show. This would not be proper if he intended to make coins to pass. They would be rejected because they did not have naturally created edges or cut irregular edges.

The two 1742 Brashers are both perfectly centered giving no detail on one which was not on the other. If genuine they would have to be struck with a larger die with full letters. The 1742 date in the middle differs from the 1742 date at the edge. There is an extra I on the left of the H in HISPAN. I suspect that the late 19th century forgerers copying a crude genuine gold piece or a picture of one and could not see the outside parts of the letters because they were not there. Thus he made only what he saw. That can be the cause of the erroneous letters and incompleteness. This thought is very powerful in making me suspect the 1742.

Garrett exchanged his 1742 Brasher for the Newcomer 1742 Brasher. See correspondence.

Epn to Hodder

Normal counterfeiting of doubloons took place during many periods and would have to create short weight precious metal. When full weight of metal is in a coin like the 1742 Brasher it's not a counterfeit but a forgery because Brasher couldn't be making them for someone else to make a profit on and would not go to all the trouble to get his name in the public eye on an out of date coin which was by 1787 superseded by an edge decorated coin.

The reason the forger used the [redacted] Lima style doubloon of 1742 period was because that was within his ability. He was not skilled enough to cut a complex 1787 period type or create decorated edges. Get a picture of the 1787 Lima 8 escudo.

The name "Brasher doubloon" was applied to the 1787 Brashers by the 1880 period and thus a forger could create a companion doubloon piece and make it for the collectors about 100 years after Brasher.

What an intriguing problem:

I await test results.

Eric

How could anyone have confidence in a 1742 piece if they knew it was made by a 1787 goldsmith It admitted deception from the beginning because Brasher's name was on it. this compares to 1804 dollars which had and Osp no name or obvious clues to expose their predations.

EPW
to Michael Hodder 12/20/90

(1)

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The edge of the 1742 gold piece (Garrett) was filed and file marks show. This would not be proper if he intended to make coins to pass. They would be rejected because they did not have naturally created edges or cut irregular edges.

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EPR to Hodder

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The reason the forger used the [redacted] Lima style doubloon of 1742 period was because that was within his ability. He was not skilled enough to cut a complex 1787 period type or create decorated edges. Get a picture of the 1787 Lima 8 escudo.

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EPW
to Michael Hodder 12/20/90

(1)

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SPN to MH 12/20/90 2

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Garrett exchanged his 1742 Brasher for the Newcomer 1742 Brasher. See correspondence.

EPN
to
Hodder

(3)

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What an intriguing problem:

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AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.

BOX 1224
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894
(603) 569-5095
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

December 26, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of December 19. I am pleased to hear that you are satisfied with the appearance of your article, and that we may position the illustrations as we see fit. We are all looking forward to the publication of the ANA Anthology, which should be, God willing, sometime in early March of next year. The volume will run to nearly 400 pages, and should have some interesting reading in it.

Regarding the Brasher Lima doubloon, thank you very much for the notes and comments that you sent me, which I found on my desk this morning. As I told you in our last telephone conversation, I have not yet had a chance really to study the coin, so I do not have any opinion at this point as to its authenticity or lack thereof. I will, when I come to study it, take into account all of your comments and criticisms about it, and will let you know what I think when I have formed a conclusion, if one can be reached.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours truly,

Michael J. Hodder
Director of Research
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

MJH/kdw

AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.

When great collections are sold, Bowers and Merena sells them.

December 28, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your note of November 19, which arrived this morning. After having gone through the list of references in this note, I find that I have all of the ones listed.

Yours truly,

Michael J. Hodder
Director
Research Department

MJH/mkv

BOX 1224 • WOLFEBORO, NH 03894 • (800) 458-4646 • (603) 569-5095 • FAX: (603) 569-5319

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Richard Doty
National Numismatic Collections
National Museum of American History
Washington, D.C. 20560

January 20, 1992

Dear Dick:

This is just a reminder that you said you located a 1742 8 escudos of Peru and would send me a picture of it. I am looking forward to receiving it.

With thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURE

February 3, 1992

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Please find enclosed two slides of the Peruvian 1742 eight escudo piece which you requested in your letter of 1/20/92 to Dr. Doty. I hope they will prove to be satisfactory.

The Smithsonian Institution retains all reproduction rights; these prints may be used on a one time basis. The credit line should read as follows; The Smithsonian Institution, National Numismatic Collection. As part of this permission it is requested that a copy of any publication be sent to the Smithsonian for inclusion in the library.

Thank you for your interest in the National Numismatic Collection.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Mudd
Collection Manager

Enclosure

Coin World
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD

P.O. BOX 150 (513) 498-0800 SIDNEY, OHIO 45365

February 5, 1992

FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed is the manuscript which we discussed by phone today. I appreciate your taking the time to review this and am most interested in your observations. Once you have had an opportunity to read the manuscript, you may call me on our toll-free number, (800) 327-1259, to give me your opinions.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,

COIN WORLD

Beth Deisher, Editor

js

Enclosure

ps: Since this is a photocopy, there is no need to return the manuscript.

30th YEAR 1960 1990 Serving Numismatics

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

February 10, 1992

Douglas A. Mudd
National Museum of American History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Mr. Mudd:

The slides of the 1742 Peruvian 8 escudo arrived and I am grateful to you. Please thank Dick also.

Would it be possible to send me the weight of the coin ? That would be of help.

I will be guided by your instructions as to use and will reciprocate any time you request it.

Cordially yours,

Eric P. Newman

Coin World
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD

P.O. BOX 150 (513) 498-0800 SIDNEY, OHIO 45365

February 11, 1992

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

In follow up to our recent phone conversation, I am enclosing biographical information which William Swoger provided. Also enclosed is a copy of an article published in the June 1991 TAMS JOURNAL. I am continuing to do research on Mr. Swoger and his sources for information in the manuscript. If you turn up any relevant information, I would be most interested in hearing from you.

Sincerely,

COIN WORLD

Beth Deisher, Editor

js

Enclosures

30th YEAR 1960 1990 Serving Numismatics

2/6/92

William Swoger
11877 West Grand Ledge Highway
Lake Odessa MI 48849

Collector-historian 40 years. Coin dealer 29 years.
Specialist in German coins
History Chairman of 100th Anniv ANA Chicago meeting
Genealogical research work.

Has written for TAMS Not ANS member

offered text to Bowers who declined book
Offered 30.000 word book length to CW for $10,000
who declined and counteroffered $2000 for one
publication right for shorter version (12,000 words now)
Sent in to CW Nov 1991 present draft.

Initial reaction.
Enormous detail
No footnotes or references
No acknowledgements
Did he hear or record Hodder presentation.
What is the source of his Bank of New York comments
What pictures does he have

Nagging problems
difference in small letters in BRASHER
difference in engraver of sides of spanish doubl.
no mention of pieces anywhere.
Bank of N.Y assertion not logical.
errors in facts.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURE

February 18, 1992

Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO
63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

The weight of the 1742 Peruvian 8 escudo is 26.793 grams. I am pleased that the slides have proven to be of use to you.

Thank you again for your interest in the National Numismatic Collection.

Sincerely,

Douglas A Mudd
Collections Manager

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Beth Deisher
Coin World
P.O. Box 150
Sidney, OH 45367

March 9, 1992

Dear Beth:

As I promised I am enclosing for your possible use in the Swoger article on Brasher the slide which I obtained from the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, covering the 1742 Peruvian doubloon in its collection. They advise me that it weighs 26.73 grams.

If you use it you must give proper credit to them. Please return the slide to me.

I am glad to help in any way I can on the Swoger matter and look forward to the references, footnotes, etc.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

Margo Russell

March 11, 1992

Dear Eric:

Always I think of you when it comes to ways of information preservation. You will see from the story on the Library of Congress' new laboratory, optical storage systems may be forever. (Atomic blasts?)

Also, you will see LC uses a "Peoplevision" mannequin a la Newman!

As you know, I never make plans in my head and my heart more than one day at a time. Although I am on the United States Mint Bicentennial celebration committee, I didn't know until last week the observance was to be on the actual date of its founding, April 2.

I agreed to attend at the time I accepted, with the understanding I might cancel at the last minute. I was all set to come to Early Coppers--with much delight, I would add, but now I'd better honor, if I can, my earlier commitment. Wouldn't it have been appropriate to invite Early Coppers members to attend the Mint ceremony? Perhaps not at $50 and up a ticket!

At the time of the Mint celebration committee organization several weeks ago, I gave them your name as a key person to be involved. Did they contact you? So far those I know include Rochette, Leuver, Bowers, Ganz, Krause, Forman and Pearlman.

If I can work it out I'll still grab a plane for St. Louis, even for a day--depending upon the largess of U.S. Air and its restricted ticket tolerance. I'm sorry I won't see you next week in New York. I need to ask you about Hodder's project and your opinion.

Love to you and your beautiful Evelyn,

Margo

3043 County Road 25-A, South
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Coin World
THE NEWS WEEKLY FOR THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD

P.O. BOX 150 (513) 498-0800 SIDNEY, OHIO 45365

REGISTERED

May 6, 1992

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed I am returning the slides (obverse and reverse) that you obtained from the Smithsonian Institution depicting the 1742 Peruvian doubloon in its collection. We have made black and white photographs from the slide and will seek permission from the Smithsonian for use with the Swoger article if space permits.

As we approach publication date, it appears that we have tied down all of the loose ends. We now anticipate publication in our June 1, 1992, issue. As soon as it is off the press, I will be expediting a copy for you. Thanks for all of your advice and help with this project.

Sincerely,

COIN WORLD

Beth Deisher, Editor

Enclosure

st

30th YEAR 1960 1990 Serving Numismatics

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

June 3, 1992

Ms. Beth Deisher, Editor
COIN WORLD
Sidney, OH 45367

Dear Beth:

As to the group of stimulating articles in the June 1, 1992 COIN WORLD featuring Swoger's research on Ephraim Brasher, your readers might wish to know that by the end of July 1992, the American Numismatic Society will publish an article by Michael Hodder entitled "Ephraim Brasher's Lima Style Doubloon." This was a presentation read at the Coinage of the Americas Conference in New York City on May 4, 1991 and will be a part (pages 127-157) of the American Numismatic Society's COAC Proceedings No. 7 entitled Money of Pre-Federal America.

For your reviving this exciting and controversial subject in the press and to add to your Brasher experience, my wife and I wish to invite Mr. Swoger, Mr. Hodder and you to join us in St. Louis for dinner and use Brasher-made silverware marked with the same EB punch used on the doubloons. We can then discuss the matter.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Margo Russell
Donald Groves Committee of ANS
3043 Country Rd., 25-A South
Sidney, OH 45365

August 2, 1994

Dear Margo:

William Swoger telephoned me several months ago asking me to write a preface for a book he proposed to publish on the subject of Ephraim Brasher. I told him that Michael J. Hodder should write it as he had praised Swoger's work in a letter to the editor of Coin World and had done much more work on the subject than I had. I explained that as to my writing a preface the matter was premature because I could not consider preparing any preface until I had read the completed manuscript of what was to be published. I have read Swoger's article in Coin World of June 1, 1992, heard the May 4, 1991 Hodder lecture at ANS and read the 1992 publication of that lecture.

At the A.N.A Convention in Detroit on July 28, 1994 Swoger found me and handed me an 84 page article written by him entitled "Brasher's Gold and America's Regulated Coins." (Copyright 1993). I have only glanced through it since then but have not read it. It shows an enormous amount of tabular detail. It has no footnotes or endnotes and no accompanying illustrations. On page 78 it mentions Hodder's ANS presentation.

I am writing you because I want to be sure that anything I may do is proper and that I avoid if possible stepping on toes. I do not want to be involved in a rehash or overlap. I have no information as to any copyright of 1993 or whether something was then published which I am unaware of.

I must therefore ask you whether work on the career of Brasher by Hodder was funded by a grant from the Groves Fund, whether a publication of any such work is pending or not, and whether I can examine the research which has been done if publication is not currently planned.

I welcome any suggestions as to what I should do. I do not wish to get into a complicated position just to write a preface and would not feel justified in writing a preface without being more fully informed on what has been done on the matter.

Please give me some guidance.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman



Michael J. Hodder
Numismatic Research
Auction Representation

HC 69 Box 606
325 North Main Street
Wolfeboro NH 03894

Member: ANA
ANS, NBS, NLG
ANA Historian

August 16, 1994

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

By something of a round about route I have received a copy of your letter of August 2, addressed to Margo Russell. That letter rehearsed your concerns about writing a preface for William Swoger's monograph on Ephraim Brasher. You stated therein your desire not to ``step on anyone's toes'' or to be involved in a rehash or overlap. I presume you meant you worried whether Swoger's work on Brasher overlapped on or borrowed from my own. I also suspect that you were concerned that any preface you might write be complete and accurate as to the state of current research.

I've read Swoger's paper on Brasher, first the preliminary draft, then the version as it appeared in *Coin World* in June, 1992, and now the near final copy he gave me at the Detroit ANA convention. I would be happy to share my perceptions of, and conclusions about, the monograph if you would care to call me. Suffice it to say here, on substantive matters, that the genealogical section is quite good. The tabular data are invaluable. The numismatic analysis is a trifle tendentious. There is no apparatus criticus, as you noted. It is not a scholarly work. It does not pretend to be one.

Where Bill refers to my work on Brasher's Lima style gold coins he makes the appropriate acknowledgement. There is nothing in his monograph that is new to me (save the genealogical data) and none of his conclusions really demand reappraising Brasher's role in American numismatics.

If I may answer the questions you raised with Margo in your letter, yes, my work on Brasher after 1991 was funded by a Groves Fund grant. No, publication is not pending, simply because there is nothing that merits publishing, the near absolute dearth of primary source material precluded that. I would be happy to let you see whatever printed research materials are in my files but I must tell you that they are very few, mostly correspondence and reprints. I'd ask that you keep the letters confidential and not make copies of them, not because of the nature of their contents, but simply because they were addressed to me alone, in the expectation of privacy. The ``real'' research material is in my head and in widely scattered notes. I never reached that point in my research where I begin drawing all the different threads together to begin weaving a story.

Your concerns about writing a preface to Swoger's monograph are understandable. I think that you will find, once you have finished reading the piece, that they were misplaced. Were I asked to, I would have no hesitancy about doing a preface for his work.

Yours truly

cc. Leslie Elam
Margo Russell

Michael Hodder

Telephone:
603-569-8265

Fax:
603-569-2678

Compuserve:
73767,606

Internet:
mhodder@world.std.com

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Richard Doty
Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of American History
Washington, D.C. 20560

April 18, 1996

Dear Dick:

Some time ago you asked for information we had on the Brasher half doubloon which you obtained as part of the Lilly collection. I told you we had it interred in our files but could probably dig it up. Accordingly our mining department has dug.

The Adams-Newcomer-Proskey correspondence seems to be the earliest data we have and copies are enclosed.

There is also enclosed copies of correspondence with and data from Lee Hewitt in 1969 based upon a James Doak comment. Since the Doak matter is long after the 1929 correspondence it is obviously erroneous. I tried to find some basis for it.

I also send you a copy of a letter I wrote to Ken Bressett about it.

Also a summary Dave Bowers wrote about it.

If you need more let me know.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Richard Doty
Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of American History
Washington, D.C. 20560

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Also a summary Dave Bowers wrote about it.

If you need more let me know.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

July 1996

Champa Sale had ½ doubloon material lot for ANS

3 letters

Send Frank my file data

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 20, 1997

Mr. Richard G. Doty
Smithsonian Institution Numismatic Division
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Dick:

You asked me some time ago what I knew about the Brasher half doubloon. I am enclosing copies of what is in my file.

The ANS as you may know has some of the original letters of the 1925 period between Proskey, Sears, Adams and Newcomer.

There is so much imagination in the facts alleged that I know enough not to believe much of them.

If the Ball Estate was collecting coins before 1925, then the Doak story is possible. The 1925 episode is real but there seems to be no history before 1925 except the possible Doak story. This presumes that Doak's date of the 1950s is not accurate because he was very old then. I do know that the Bowers pedigree may not be accurate because Johnson did not buy the coin from the Green Estate. I never saw it in the Green Estate, and Johnson and I bought all of the colonials together from it.

Breen wrote his article for the ANS 1957 Centennial publication and stated that he used information furnished by John Ford for pedigrees.

I hope I have given you some help and confusion, but please let me know if you find anything new and solid.

My best to you both for 1997,

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

Dick — 1/21/97

In Breen's Encyclopedia the date of origin of the half doubloon is given as 1928. The 1925 letters make this another silly error. The little old lady story in Breen is the overused cliché. That old lady appears everywhere with only choice coins

Eric

FROM THE DESK OF ERIC P. NEWMAN

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 12, 1998

Mr. Edward Roehrs
R.F.D. 352
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612

Dear Mr. Roehrs:

I have been writing on and researching coinage for 50 years and have been collecting much longer.

I was talking with John Kleeberg of the American Numismatic Society about a problem I have with a 1772 English guinea in our collection counterstamped with a script capital B. It has been adjusted by filing to weigh 8.11 grams (125.2 grains). He sent me some pages of Gordon's 1987 book to be of help. (I need the book for our library and would appreciate it if you could have one sent and invoiced to me.)

Gordon indicates 24 coins counterstamped with the script capital B are known. Do these conform in weight to ours? I was told without confirmation that the script B is JB which is for John Burger, but no basis for that comment was given me. It doesn't look like JB to me but merely flourishes to round out the B monogram. Could it be Brasher?

We also have in our collection a 1760 half guinea counterstamped with block letter capitals EB in a horizontal oval. This has been filed to reduce its weight to 4.00 grams. It occurred to me that the reduction in weight was exactly the amount to make the coin worth 10 shillings sterling in value. Does this fit in with your thinking? The other counterstamped guineas in the Garrett collection conform to this standard including the quarter guinea. Perhaps you know of others. Without filing, guineas would be valued at 21 shillings sterling.

I would appreciate your comments. My telephone is 314-727-0850. My FAX is 314-727-0820. Please tell me your telephone number if we should talk about the problem.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

EDWARD ROEHRS

RFD #852 - Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Tel. Home: (809) 881-1173

November 20, 1998

Mr Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman;

Your kind letter of August 12, 1998 received last week. The delay was due to the fact we had been in Europe for the past three months.

Now, to the English guineas, some clipped, some plugged, some c/s with script capital "B" or any combination of the above.

The "B" counterstamp might very well be for John Burger, but I fail to see a "JB". I see only "B" and the members of ERIK see the same. Please refer to "Marks of American Silversmiths Revised", by Robert Allen Green where Burger's recorded marks are; "Burger' in indent 2 varieties & "I•B" in square indent with rounded corners. Conversely,I do not find any mention of a capital script "B".

Below is a list on the English guineas, with weights and c/s in my collection;

NAGS, 1760, 8.2172g, clipped
1749. 8.1939g. clipped
1777 8.1958g. clipped
1750, 8.150g. clipped
1759, 8.15g. clipped
1749 8.1570g. clipped, plugged, c/s "EB" over plug & "B",(Garrett #2344)
1773 8.160g. clipped c/s "B" Gordon #3 p.92
1775 8.1620g. clipped c/s "B" in oval, not in Gordon, (Garrett #1230)
Barbadoes 1760 7.3058g. c/s "JB" in capital script in oblong indent. not in Gordon, not same recorded mark as John Benjamin.
Penna.(?) 1734 8.1288g. clipped c/s "B"
1716 8.1237g. clipped c/s "B" over plug
NAGS 1786R 8.035g. c/s "EB" (French Louis d'or)
1760 8.0964g. clipped c/s "B" over plug
1713 7.859g. clipped, c/s "EB" present weight near Island weight for St. Vincent (7.988g.) Earliest known date.

I haven't double checked but I believe the two Penna. pieces are ex Murdock, lots 852 & 853 "found in the State of Georgia".

The above does not include the "joes" c/s with a "B".

I will try to get a copy of Ralph Gordon's book for you.

EDWARD ROEHRS

RFD #852 - Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Tel. Home: (809) 881-1173

There is no doubt the "EB" marks are for Brasher.

I place the weight and c/s on the Gold more important than what it was worth in Pounds & Shillings as every Island and every State had a different scale of values.

Want to get this letter off to you as soon as possible as three months is a long wait.

Thank you for your kind past favors, particularly the work you did in dertermining the Gold content of the latge Puerto Rico medal that Peter Mitchell submitted to you.

With all best wishes,

I am.

Sincerely,

Edward Roehrs.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Edward Roehrs
P.O. Box 852
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612

December 2, 1998

Dear Mr. Roehrs:

Needless to say I was surprised to receive your kind answer to my August 12, 1998 letter as I had naturally presumed I was not going to get one. Your November 20, 1998 letter was appreciated due to its detail and numismatic enthusiasm.

I was once in Arecibo checking a retail store location in a shopping center. My wife is enchanted by the fire house in Ponce. I have done substantial historical research in the Virgin Islands. On my honeymoon 59 years ago my wife and I steered our cruise ship toward the Vieques Light on the other side of your island.

The first thing I did was to check the Murdock sale and your lot numbers were transposed. They are 582 and 583, I enclose a photocopy for your file. You will note that the 583 description omits the B counterstamp and is not plated. So far as I can notice they are unrelated to Pennsylvania. They are gems.

I would like to know from your list of guineas what counterstamp is on those not specified. Are they EB or B?

My research in early America led me to collect books and pamphlets with tables of values of various coin in different parts of the British colonies in America. That is why I produced the theory about 20 sterling shillings as the adjusted value. This would make it circulate regardless of local values in money of account.

If you have not read my article on the Dollar Sign in the American Numismatic Society COAC proceedings ("The Dollar $ign: Its Written and Printed Origins", America's Silver Dollars COAC Proceedings, No. 9, NY ANS 1995, John Kleeberg, ed.) I think you would like it because of all the Spanish and Portuguese background.

I will have much more to write in my next installment. I look forward to you locating the Gordon book.

Thanks for all the information.

Keep traveling and thrive,

Eric P. Newman

Edward Roehrs
P.O. Box 852
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612

December 2, 1998

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Thanks for all the information.

Keep traveling and thrive,

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Mike Dunigan
5332 Buchman
Fort Worth, TX 76107

March 26, 1999

Dear Mr. Dunigan:

Mr. Edward H. Roehrs just wrote me that I should contact you for a copy of the book by R.C. Gordon entitled West Indies Countermarked Gold Coins.

Whatever you charge a library will be promptly remitted.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Eric P. Newman

DR 6

PUERTO PLATA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The old spanish fortification, Castillo de San Felipe, is regularly visited by cruise ship passengers.

Dear Mr. Newman-

Try MIKE DONIGHI

C. 37.50 5332 Buchman

Ft. Worth.

FOR. TX 76107

R.C. Gordon.

West Indian Gold

Countermarked Coins.

Photo: Herbert E. Miller

EDWARD H. ROEHRS

Caribe Hemco, Inc., P.O. Box HEM, Carolina, P.R. 00630

171461

Printed in U.S.A.



Mr. Ruth Newman

6450 Cecil Ave

St. Louis

MO 63105.

